LEXINGTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 24, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Caroline Beiting** of **Lexington Catholic High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Beiting as Kentucky's best high school girls track & field athlete, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Sanya Richards (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fl.), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (2014-15, 2015-16 & 2016-17, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 5-foot-9 senior distance talent captured gold medals in the 800- and 1600-meter runs at the Class 2A state meet this past season and also anchored a winning 4x800-meter relay quartet, leading the Knights to the team title. Beiting took eighth in the elite mile race at the national HOKA Festival of Miles and her time of 4:47.69 ranked No. 42 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. Her personal-best clocking of 4:37.07 in the 1500-meter run ranked No. 65 nationally and her season-best 4:48.66 mark in the 1600 ranked No. 67.

A member of her school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Beiting has donated her time to benefit the DanceBlue Hematology/Oncology Clinic at Kentucky Children's Hospital. She has also volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter and as a teacher for a middle school Bible Study group. "Caroline has had a phenomenal season this spring," said Mike Wicker, head coach of Calloway County High School. "She is, without a doubt, one of the best distance runners the state has seen in a really long time. What really makes her special is how she goes out and takes control of her races early on. Whether she is going for a record-breaking run or another state title, she always seems to be in control of what her plan is."

Beiting has maintained a weighted 4.51 GPA in the classroom and graduated as her class valedictorian. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Michigan this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports – football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field – and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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