

SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Rae Smart** of **Skyview High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Montana 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 Smart as Montana'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 throws specialist set a state record in the javelin at the Class 2A state meet this past season, launching the apparatus 162 feet, 11 inches to rank No. 4 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. Smart also repeated as state champion in the shot put in addition to winning the discus throw, leading the Falcons to seventh place as a team. Her personal-best shot effort of 46-5 at April's Midland Roundtable Top 10 ranked No. 39 nationally at the time of her selection.

Also an All-State soccer and basketball player, Smart has volunteered locally with a Unified physical education class at Skyview High School, supporting students with physical and intellectual challenges, in addition to serving as a youth soccer and basketball coach. She has also donated her time with the Reading Rocks program at various elementary schools. "Rae is great—extremely competitive and performs at the big meets," said Rob Stanton, head coach of Billings West High School. "As an example, our javelin thrower jumped ahead of Rae on her final toss [at the state meet]. Rae had to throw further on her last toss to win. Not only did she win, she had a 30-plus foot PR and set an all-class record for the javelin."

Smart has maintained a 4.39 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to play basketball and compete in track and field at Montana State University this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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