

KEARNEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Alyssa Onnen** of **Kearney Catholic High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Nebraska 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 Onnen as Nebraska’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-5 junior jumper and vaulter repeated as champion in the triple jump and pole vault at the Class C state meet this past season, leading the Stars to the team title. Onnen’s winning vault clearance of 13 feet, 0.25 inches broke a meet record and ranked No. 24 nationally among girls prep competitors this spring. Her season-best leap of 39-2.5 in the triple jump ranked No. 85 nationally. Onnen also took third in the long jump at the state meet and ran the third leg on Kearney Catholic’s runner-up 4x100-meter relay quartet.

Onnen started her own exfoliation business, Perfectly Pampered by Alyssa, as an 11-year-old. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a youth track coach. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. “Watching Alyssa compete up close during the triple jump at the state meet, a number of things really stood out,” said Phil Janssen, head coach of Syracuse High School. “Her athletic ability is obvious and places her among the best high school athletes (in the country), but what truly impressed me was her mentality and approach to competition. She was relaxed, composed and completely present in the moment.”

Onnen has maintained a 4.38 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior year of high school 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](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

###