

EASTERN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Natalie Dumas** of **Eastern Regional High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New Jersey 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 Dumas as New Jersey'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-6 junior middle distance talent tied two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone's state record in the 400-meter dash at the NJSIAA Sectionals and her time of 51.87 seconds ranked No. 2 nationally among prep girls competitors this spring. Dumas earned NJSIAA Meet of Champions titles in the 400, 800-meter run, and 400-meter hurdles—her PR in the 800 of 2:02.75 at that meet ranked No. 4 nationally at the time of her selection. She clocked 57.30 in the 400 hurdles at the NJSIAA Group 4 Championships to rank No. 2 nationally. She is the only non-senior in history to rank in the all-time Top 25 in three individual events.

A member of her school's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Dumas has volunteered locally facilitating bible study classes. Having overcome dyslexia to become an excellent student, she has also donated her time with Impact Athlete Collective, speaking at events to discuss obstacles in sports and how to overcome them. "Natalie Dumas is quickly evolving into a generational talent by mastering some of the sport's toughest events," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack.com. "Having tied Sydney's state record in the 400 meters in May, she has another year to rewrite the record books. She might well be the nation's best prep talent next spring."

Dumas has maintained an A-minus 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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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