

## **O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 24, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Libby Castelli** of **O'Gorman High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade South Dakota 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 Castelli as South Dakota'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-4 senior middle-distance and distance talent broke the tape in the 800-meter run with a personal-best and meet-record time of 2:10.35 at the Class 2A state championships this past season, leading the Knights to seventh place as a team. Castelli also won individual state titles in the 1600 and 3200 and anchored O'Gorman's SMR relay quartet to a gold medal, earning Class 2A Track MVP honors in the process. She was even more impressive on the regional and national stage, highlighted by her third-place finish in the mile at California's Arcadia Invitational, where she crossed the line in a personal-best 4:42.21, which ranked as the nation's No. 15 clocking at the time of her selection. She also PR'd in the 3200 (10:11.66) at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays, which ranked No. 22 in the country, and she set a state record in the 1600 (4:48.85) at the same meet, which ranked No. 71 nationally.

Castelli has volunteered locally on behalf of The Banquet meal ministry as well as the St. Francis House's Dough Nation program, which she's served on a weekly basis. She has also donated her time as a youth mentor with the Dakota Alliance Soccer Club Soccer Stars program. "Castelli clocked the state's best performance at four distances this past spring," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "She graduated as a seven-time individual state champion and shared in two SMR state titles. She was clearly the class of South Dakota this spring."

Castelli has maintained a 4.0 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of North Carolina 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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