

**ASHWAUBENON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (June 25, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Thea Kral** of **Ashwaubenon High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Player of the Year**. Kral is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Player of the Year to be chosen from Ashwaubenon High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Kral as Wisconsin’s best high school girls track & field athlete. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Sanya Richards-Ross (2001-02, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Fla), Sydney McLaughlin (2016-17, 2015-16 & 2014-15, Union Catholic High School, N.J.) and Angelina Napoleon (2022-23, Allegany-Limestone Central School, N.Y.).

The 6-foot-1 junior throws specialist swept the discus and the shot put events at the Division 1 state meet this past season with personal-best performances in both disciplines. Kral launched the discus 162 feet, two inches—the nation’s No. 14 distance among girls prep competitors this spring. She followed with a 46-7.75 effort in the shot put, which ranked No. 27 nationally and bettered her previous best by nearly four feet.

Kral has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army during the holiday season, ringing the bell to raise money for those in need. She has also served on her school’s Student Council as well as its Link Crew, which assists freshmen in acclimating to high school. “Thea Kral raised her game come postseason championship time,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “In the end, massive breakthroughs at the state meet applied the finishing touches on a successful season, setting her up nicely for a breakout campaign in 2025.”

Kral has maintained a weighted 3.78 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 that sanction high school 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.

Kral joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Players of the Year Anna Szepieniec (2022-23, DeForest Area High School) and Roisin Willis (2021-22, 2020-21, & 2019-20, Stevens Point Area Senior High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

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 \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).