2026 Raider Track and Field Awards

(Awards Night is *tentatively* scheduled for Monday – May 26)

"Rookie of the Year" Award

This award recognizes the outstanding contributions made by a newcomer to the team in their first year. It honors the dedication, skill, and impact demonstrated by a 1st year *field event* athlete who has swiftly integrated into the team and shown remarkable potential with their effort, willingness to learn and character. Must be in their 1st year with the team.

FIELD EVENTS - ALEXIS MCDOLE & DAVID SCHMIDT
TRACK EVENTS - IRIS BIRNBAUM & EVELYN HURLEY

"Most Improved" Award

This award celebrates the significant progress and growth shown by a *field event* athlete over their time with the team. It acknowledges their commitment to self-improvement, perseverance, and dedication to becoming a better athlete (and person) year after year. Must be in at least their second year with the team.

FIELD EVENTS - HANNAH FORMAN & LUCAS ROBERTS
TRACK EVENTS - MAYA KHACHIKIAN & VICTOR HICKMAN

"Doc Michel" Award

This award honors the *track* athlete who exemplifies unwavering dedication to improving both on and off the track. This athlete is recognized for their relentless pursuit of excellence throughout the entire year, demonstrating an exceptional work ethic during the competitive season and continuing their efforts even when the season ends. Their dedication to training, skill enhancement, and personal growth sets a standard for commitment and perseverance. This award celebrates not only the physical efforts but also the mental resilience required to continually push oneself towards greater achievements, making them a model of dedication for the entire team.

A legendary figure at Stevens High School, Doc Michel was a dedicated teacher and coach whose commitment to excellence left an indelible mark on our athletic program. Over his illustrious career, he contributed to more than 50 state championships, demonstrating an extraordinary level of dedication. Doc went above and beyond the call of duty, ensuring that all athletes had optimal opportunities to succeed. His legacy of hard work and perseverance continues to inspire our community, making the Doc Michel Award a fitting tribute to his enduring impact.

FIELD EVENTS - HOLLY BENSON & HENRY HANSEN
TRACK EVENTS - RILEY WILLET & TATE VAN BEEK

“Champion Teammate” Award

This award is given to the *field event* athlete who puts the team's needs above their own, always considering what they can do to support their teammates' success. They demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the team, readily accepting any role that contributes to the team's collective goals.

FIELD EVENTS - JADYN SCHEURER & LOUIE EVANS
TRACK EVENTS - SYLVIE MORTIMER & ERIC MORROW

“Most Valuable” Award

This award is bestowed upon the athlete whose exceptional performance and commitment in the their events have propelled the team to greater heights. It recognizes their consistent excellence and effort in practices and meets, inspiring teammates with their skill and dedication.

FIELD EVENTS - AVA HOLZWARTH AND KADE OLMSTED
TRACK EVENTS - ELLA BRADEEN & NOLAN LONG & JACK DAY

“Team Captain” Award

This award recognizes the exemplary leadership, dedication, and sportsmanship of a senior athlete who has served as a beacon of inspiration for their teammates. Their guidance, mentorship, and unwavering character and commitment to the team have helped shape its culture and success. Preference is given to seniors, but well deserving underclassmen may be eligible as well. To be eligible for this award you must be a part of the leadership team which meets throughout the fall and winter.

GIRLS - ELLA BRADEEN & WHITLI ADAMS
BOYS - ERIC MORROW & TATE VAN BEEK

“Jim Thorpe Ultimate Warrior” Award

This award is bestowed upon the top male and female athlete who demonstrate unparalleled prowess, endurance, and versatility in the demanding Iron Raider competition. This distinguished honor celebrates those who not only excel across a diverse array of athletic challenges but also embody the spirit of true sportsmanship and resilience under pressure. Recipients of this award have proven themselves as leaders in athleticism, setting the highest standards of performance and determination.

The "Jim Thorpe Ultimate Warrior" award is a fantastic homage to one of the greatest athletes of all time. Jim Thorpe, a Native American athlete, excelled in multiple sports, including track and field, football, and baseball, embodying the spirit of versatility, resilience, and excellence.

GIRL - ELLA BRADEEN
BOY – NOLAN LONG

Lemoine Trout Memorial Scholarship

Each year we'd like to give one Raider Track & Field student-athlete a **$500** scholarship to help with their college expenses. In the event we have more than one deserving applicant and the funds are available we may choose to award additional scholarships and/or divide up the funds we do have between multiple applicants.

This scholarship is to honor the late Lemoine Trout! Lemoine Trout was a loving father, grandfather and husband who was a very dedicated teacher and coach in the Rapid City School District for many years. He was the Head Track & Field coach at Stevens until 2002 when he passed away due to cancer. The Lemoine Trout Scholarship fund has given many kids some financial assistance over the years to help with their college expenses at primarily Black Hills State University (Lemoine's alma mater) but many other schools as well. Additional information and other scholarship opportunities can be found on our website.

RECIPIENT – HOLLY BENSON

Brynn Nelson Memorial Scholarship

The Brynn Nelson Memorial Scholarship is awarded in honor of an extraordinary young woman whose legacy continues to inspire everyone who knew her. Brynn was more than an elite athlete—she was a trailblazer, a fierce competitor, a compassionate teammate, and a shining example of character, resilience, and heart.

A multi-sport standout, Brynn left an indelible mark on South Dakota track and field. She was a two-time state javelin champion, the school and state record holder, and a finalist for Gatorade Player of the Year. Beyond the medals and records, Brynn was known for her infectious spirit, her support of others, and her commitment to growing the sport—especially for young female athletes.

This scholarship is awarded to a Raider Track & Field athlete who reflects Brynn's passion, determination, and selflessness. It recognizes someone who not only excels in their events but also uplifts teammates, leads with kindness, and lives with purpose—just as Brynn did every single day.

Though Brynn's time with us was far too short, her legacy lives on through this scholarship, encouraging future generations to carry her light forward—with strength, grace, and love for the sport.

RECIPIENT – ABBIE FERGUSON

South Dakota Track & Field "All-State" Team

Athletes can make the South Dakota track & field "*All-State*" team by placing in the TOP 8 amongst all three classes (AA, A and B) in either an individual event and/or relay event at the South Dakota State Track & Field Meet which will be held in Sioux Falls on May 28-30, 2026.

RECIPIENTS – Maya Khachikian, Riley Willet, Ava Holzwarth, Ella Bradeen, Evelyn Hurley, Iris Birnbaum, Brinna Sheldon, Avery Dormann, Liberty Lundin, Bailey Holland, Sophia Guge, Taylor Steever, Ava Fessler, Clare Ashley, Liam LaCarrubba, JonPaul Sullivan, Eric Morrow, Nolan Long, Racyn Bradley, Landen Meyer, Gavan Novotny, Tate Van Beek, Jack Day, Victor Hickman, and Kade Olmsted.

"Academic All-State" Award

This recognizes seniors with a cumulative 3.5 grade point average who have been out for track & field for at least 3 years at Stevens and any other SDHSAA school.

RECIPIENTS – Whitli Adams, Peyton Dockter, Avery Dormann, Abbie Ferguson, Torrin Jackson, Adelaide Kleinschmidt, Landen Meyer, Rhett Miller, Eric Morrow, Sylvie Mortimer, Jadyn Scheurer, Karli Schoenberner, and Tailynn Trescott.

"Academic Team Award"

The Academic Team Award program provides high school students with the opportunity to prove they can be overwhelmingly successful in both academics as well as in athletic and fine arts activities. All varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups that achieve a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible to receive an SDHSAA Academic Achievement Team Award.

RECIPIENTS – TBA

SCHOOL RECORDS

Athletes who broke a school record during the 2026 outdoor season.

2026 RECORD BREAKERS – Girls 4 x 100 (Maya Khachikian, Riley Willet, Ava Holzwarth, Ella Bradeen) (47.09)**, Girls 4 x 200** (Maya Khachikian, Riley Willet, Ava Holzwarth, Ella Bradeen) (1:41.94), **Girls 200 Meter** Dash (Ava Holzwarth) (24.67), **Girls Long Jump** (Ava Holzwarth) (19-10.75), **Girls 100 Meter Hurdles** (Maya Khachikian) (14.20), **Girls 1600 Meter Run** (Iris Birnbaum) (4:55.50), **Girls 800 Meter Run** (Evelyn Hurley) (2:11.78), **Girls Distance Medley** (Evelyn Hurley, Taylor Steever, Brinna Sheldon, Iris Birnbaum) (12:22.51), **Boys Distance Medley** (Evan Perrigo, Eric Morrow, Carter Dormann, Tate Van Beek) (10:49.86), **Boys Javelin** (Kade Olmsted) (182-5), **Boys 110 Meter Hurdles** (Jack Day) (14.09).