

SOUTH POINTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (December 5, 2025) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced J'Zavien Currence of South Pointe High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade South Carolina Football 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 excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Currence as South Carolina's best high school football player, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Peyton Manning (1993-94, Isidore Newman School, LA), Nick Singleton (2021-22, Governor Mifflin High School, PA) and Keelon Russell (2024-25, Duncanville High School, TX).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-3, 205-pound senior quarterback and safety had led the Stallions (13-1) to a berth in the Class AAAA state championship game. Currence passed for 2,764 yards and 24 touchdowns while also rushing for 1,497 yards and 18 scores through 14 games. On defense, he led a defense that allowed 7.4 points per game. Entering the state final, he'd tallied 43 tackles, 18 pass breakups and four interceptions, returning one for a touchdown.

Currence has volunteered locally with the Leader in Me Club, promoting leadership and character development among his peers. He has also donated his time as a youth mentor, stressing the importance of academics to younger athletes. "J'Zavien Currence stood out in a major way on both offense and defense," said Leon Boulware, head coach of Rock Hill High School. "He truly carried his team on his back and impacted the game on every snap. I have great respect for the way he elevates the players around him and leads his team."

Currence has maintained a weighted 4.10 GPA in the classroom. At the time of his selection, he had made a verbal commitment to receive athletic aid to play football at the University of South Carolina next fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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.

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