

CLOVIS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 13, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Conor Lott of Clovis North High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade California Boys Cross Country 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 Lott as California's best high school boys cross country athlete, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Lukas Verzbicas (2009-10 & 2010-11, Carl Sandburg High School, IL) Edward Cheserek (2012-13, Saint Benedict's Preparatory School, NJ) and Charlie Vause (2024-25, Rio Rancho High School, NM).

The 5-foot-9, 145-pound senior won his second straight CIF Division I state title this past season, breaking the tape with a Central Section record time of 14:43.2 to become the state's fifth multi-time Division I champion in prep history. Lott, the lone California male to compete at both premier national championship meets, earned Second Team All-American honors by finishing seventh at the Brooks Cross Country Championships. He broke the tape at the prestigious Nike Portland XC Invitational, and was also the top California finisher at Nike Cross Nationals, where he took 26th.

A member of Clovis North High School's Athletic Leadership Council and Vice President of the River Alive Club on campus, Lott has volunteered locally with the Pinedale/Fig Garden Rotary Food Delivery Program. He has also donated his time mentoring younger runners at the Run Like A Champion cross country camp. "After posting a career-best qualitative showing at Nike Portland XC in the early season, Conor Lott's return to the Rose City for Nike Cross Nationals months later netted his most humbling outing of the year," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Yet, the aftermath of that adversity spoke volumes about his character and resilience as he rebounded days later to deliver his best performance ever at Brooks Nationals. An excellent team leader, he's a quality student-athlete to the core."

Lott has maintained a weighted 4.29 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Georgetown University this 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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