

BRUNSWICK SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Nathan Lee of Brunswick School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Connecticut 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 Lee as Connecticut'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, 130-pound senior earned Third Team All-American honors with his 17th-place finish at the Brooks Cross Country Championships this past season. Lee also took second in the Brooks Northeast Regional Championships and won the New England Prep School Track Association Division 1 Championships, leading the Bruins to a sixth-place finish as a team. The state's 2024-25 Gatorade Boys Track & Field Player of the Year, he concluded the season ranked No. 22 in the country in the MileSplit50 rankings.

A senior prefect at Brunswick School, Lee has volunteered locally with Sneakers4Good and has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Nathan has enjoyed a stellar cross country career in all respects," said Steve Polikoff, head coach of the Brunswick School. "It's a tale of successes any athlete would envy."

Lee has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will attend Harvard University this fall, where he will run for the cross country and track teams.

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](https://www.x.com/Gatorade).

###