

TATNALL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Dylan McCarthy of Tatnall School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Delaware 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 McCarthy as Delaware'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-10, 165-pound senior won the Division 2 state meet this past season with a time of 15:37.9, breaking the tape 9.9 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Hornets to a fourth-place finish as a team. McCarthy was also the state's top finisher at the Nike Cross Southeast Regional Championships. The 2025 Delaware Cross Country Runner of the Year, he was undefeated against in-state competition at 5K.

A black belt in Taekwondo, McCarthy is also a competitive chess player and owns his own yard-cutting business. He has volunteered locally at the Ardon Summer Fair and donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through Catholic Youth Ministries. "Dylan McCarthy is an underdog story that is easy for me to tell," said Patrick Castagno, head coach of the Tatnall School. "Over the past three years, his body underwent a metamorphic change, and he returned for his senior season with big goals. He won 6 of the 9 races he entered and ended up as Delaware's Runner of the Year."

McCarthy has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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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