

MOANALUA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII 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 James Millare of Moanalua High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Hawaii 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 Millare as Hawaii'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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7, 140-pound senior won his second-straight state title this past season, clocking a state record time of 16:00 and breaking the tape 41 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor. In doing so, Millare led the Na Menehune to a second-place finish as a team. He also won the Oahu Interscholastic Association Eastern Division Championships and the OIA Championships.

Millare has volunteered locally as a middle school track meet marshal and has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church. "James has an incredible work ethic," said David Matsumoto, head coach of Moanalua High School. "He trains extremely hard and helps out his teammates whenever he can. He's also a very intelligent racer. He can run from the front and he can flourish from the pack."

Millare has maintained a 3.49 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at George Mason 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](https://www.x.com/Gatorade).

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