

## SPRINGS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 13, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Calvin Seitz of Springs Valley High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Indiana 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 Seitz as Indiana'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-11, 142-pound junior won the Brooks XC Championships Midwest Regional this past season and followed up with an eight-place finish at Brooks nationals to earn Second Team All-American honors. Seitz also broke the tape at the state meet with a photo-finish lean to win the title. He clocked a personal-best time of 14:53.5 at the Region 5 Meet last fall and concluded the year ranked No. 11 in the national MileSplit50.

Seitz has volunteered locally at his church and as part of a Unified Track team, which pairs youth athletes with intellectually challenged peers in celebration of sport. He has also donated his time coaching young runners and as a course spotter at community road racing events. "Calvin Seitz's tactical superiority last fall in the championship months of November and December – winning states with a lean at the line, winning a regional title by five seconds and gutting out a top-10 finish at nationals – made him the class of Indiana last fall in my view," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.

Seitz has maintained a 3.41 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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](http://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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