

## **BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MONTANA 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 Miles Halvorsen of Bozeman High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Montana 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 Halvorsen as Montana'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 won the Class AA state meet this past season with a time of 15:34.5, breaking the tape 8.3 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Hawks to the team title. Halvorsen also earned Second Team All-Region honors at the Nike Cross Northwest Regional Championships by finishing 13th in a personal-best 14:58.1, making him the fastest Montana competitor in the race. He won four of the seven races he entered.

Halvorsen has volunteered locally on behalf of the Wild Montana Trail Maintenance & Trail Building crew and as a distance race aide. He has also donated his time as a tutor through the Bozeman High Spanish National Honor Society. "Miles was the top runner on the best team in Montana this year," said Kelley Gilbert, head coach of Helena High School. "He is well coached and was a consistent performer all season."

Halvorsen has maintained a weighted 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Colorado State 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](https://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://x.com/Gatorade).

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