

PIUS X CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 David Krier of Pius X Catholic High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Nebraska 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 Krier as Nebraska'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, 130-pound senior won the NSAA Class B state meet this past season with a time of 15:26.2, leading the Thunderbirds to the team title. A three-time All-State selection, Krier won two regular-season invitationals as well as the B-3 District Championship and took second in three other races. He also was the top Nebraska finisher at the Nike Cross Heartland Regional Championships, where he finished 14th to earn Second Team All-Region honors.

A member of the National Honor Society, Krier has volunteered locally with his school's Campus Ministry and its Leadership Club. He has also donated this time as a peer tutor. "Earning the state meet's Gold Medal Award for posting the fastest overall time regardless of class, David Krier demonstrated leadership and consistency to keep Lincoln Pius X at the top of the heap in Nebraska for a second consecutive year," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack.

Krier has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of Nebraska 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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