

## **SOMERSET ACADEMY SKY POINTE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 Carter Prater of Somerset Academy Sky Pointe High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Nevada 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 Prater as Nevada'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 6-foot-2, 150-pound senior won his second straight individual state title this past season, breaking the tape at the NIAA Class 5A meet with a time of 15:42 and leading the Eagles to second place as a team. Prater, the Class 4A state champion a year ago, broke his own state records at both 5Ks and three miles for the second consecutive year. His fifth-place finish in 14:50.6 at the Desert Twilight set a new state record in the former, while his runner-up showing in 14:00.1 at the Woodbridge Classic established a new 3-mile standard.

Prater has volunteered locally in association with the Red Rock Running Company. He also has donated his time as a lead volunteer for a variety of community road races. "When Carter Prater put the pedal to the metal, his legs were nothing short of remarkable in breaking state records at both three miles and five kilometers—precursors to his earning a second individual state title," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Without a doubt, his signature race came under the lights at the prestigious Woodbridge Classic, where he delivered a spectacular runner-up finish to eventual dual national champion Jackson Spencer at the world's largest prep cross country meet."

Prater has maintained a weighted 4.56 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of Colorado at Boulder 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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