

WARRENTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 Jayden Warner of Warrenton High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Oregon 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 Warner as Oregon'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-8, 145-pound senior won the OSAA Class 3A state meet this past season with a time of 14:55.56, breaking the tape 51.7 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor. Warner took third at the NXN Northwest Regional before finishing eighth at Nike Cross Nationals to earn Second Team All-American honors to cap his season. He also won the Rated Race at the prestigious Woodbridge Classic, finished fifth at the renowned Nike Portland XC meet and raced to a personal-best 14:36.1 to win the Grant Robison Invitational.

An avid mountain biker, Warner has volunteered locally mentoring young runners. He has also donated his time co-producing a YouTube channel geared toward sharing successful training and race preparation techniques with peers. "By season's midpoint, Jayden Warner was still the nation's best-kept secret," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "He blew that cover out of the water during his final three races, including an eye-popping eighth-place finish at Nike Cross Nationals that suddenly affirmed the small-town talent as a premier achiever."

Warner has maintained a weighted 3.31 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of Oregon 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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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