

GREER MIDDLE COLLEGE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Jackson Tuck of Greer Middle College Charter High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade South Carolina 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 Tuck as South Carolina'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, 135-pound senior won the Class 3A state meet this past season, clocking the fastest all-class time of the day (15:03.2) and leading the Blazers to the team title. Tuck was also South Carolina's fastest competitor at the NXN Southeast Regional, where he took fifth to earn First Team All-Region honors and clinch the state's only bid to nationals. His fourth-place finish at the VA XC Showcase came in a personal-best time of 14:55.8—the state's best 5K clocking of 2025.

Tuck has volunteered locally on behalf of Black Mountain Children's Home, Front Porch Housing, Greer Community Ministry and Grace Church. He has also donated his time coaching youth distance runners. "I think Jackson Tuck was the class of the state last fall," said John Olson, a MileSplit SC editor. "He was the only South Carolina runner to qualify for Nike nationals and won an individual and team state title."

Tuck has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Appalachian State 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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