

BUCKHORN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS TRACK AND FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 26, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Marcus Lee of Buckhorn High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Alabama Boys Track and Field 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 Lee as Alabama’s best high school boys track and field athlete and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Virginia), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Tate Taylor (2024-25, Harlan High School, Texas).

The 6-foot-2, 165-pound senior jumper won the Class 6A state title in the high jump with a clearance of 6 feet, 10 inches this past season, leading the Bucks to third place as a team with a mark that ranked No. 60 nationally among prep boys competitors in 2026. Lee also won the triple jump, soaring a personal-best 48-6, which ranked No. 51 nationally. He was unbeaten in the triple jump this spring and lost just once in the high jump.

An active member of his church youth group, Lee has volunteered locally coaching youth athletes in the Buckhorn community and has donated his time to the Riverton Intermediate School, where he spends time mentoring and interacting with students through games, dancing and basketball. He has also served as a peer tutor. “An exceptional mentor around campus and in his community, Lee finishes his prep career as a three-time state champion and one of the finer dual-discipline jumpers in state history,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com.

Lee has maintained a 3.12 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

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