

WRANGELL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA 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 Boomchain Loucks of Wrangell High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Alaska 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 Loucks as Alaska’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 5-foot-10, 145-pound senior middle-distance and distance talent won the 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter events at the Division II state meet this past season, leading the Wolves to an eighth-place finish as a team. Loucks PR’d the 800 with a time of 1:57.16 and broke the tape in the 1600 in 4:19.55. His winning 9:37.24 clocking in the 3200 was just over his season- and personal-best time of 9:31.78 at the Region V Championships. The state meet’s Most Outstanding Male Competitor, he also ran Alaska’s fastest 1600 time of 2026 with a 4:18.62 at the Liberty Twilight meet.

Loucks has volunteered locally as part of community clean-up days and with Tech Savvy Senior, a group that provides elderly community members assistance with technology. He has also served as a member of Wrangell’s lead dance group at Celebration, a biennial cultural festival that honors the traditions of Indigenous Peoples of Southeast Alaska. “I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know this young man for the last couple years,” said Jeremy Strong, head coach of Sitka High School. “He’s a great kid with a good heart. He seems to make connections wherever he goes. He trains in a town without a track oval and often without any training partners. He is process and goal-driven. His times and accomplishments speak for themselves. I can’t think of another athlete who has experienced his level of individual success this year.”

Loucks has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at Western Washington University 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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