

## **SALESIANUM SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS TRACK AND FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 26, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Roan Samuels of Salesianum School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Delaware 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 Samuels as Delaware'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-3, 265-pound senior thrower broke two state records and won a pair of state titles in leading the Sallies to the Division I team state championship this past season. Samuels won the discus event at the Twilight Invitational with a personal-best launch of 208 feet, 1 inch, breaking the state standard with a mark that ranked No. 9 nationally among prep boys competitors in 2026. At the HOKA Henderson Invitational, he broke the state record in the shot put with a throw of 61-5 that tied for No. 93 nationally.

Samuels has volunteered locally at St. Patrick's Center, a nonprofit organization that provides activities and transportation to seniors as well as meals, groceries, clothing and social service support. He has also donated his time via the Youth Leadership Club at Warner Elementary School in addition to coaching youth track athletes at Nativity Preparatory School. "Samuels not only strung together the most dominant season in state history for a discus thrower, but his massive mid-season improvement of two feet in the shot put cemented him as the best combo thrower Delaware has ever seen," said Rich Gonzalez, editor at PrepCalTrack.com.

Samuels has maintained a 3.83 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at Boston 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X (Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

###