

**BELEN JESUIT PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Marcelo Mantecon of Belen Jesuit Preparatory School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Florida 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 Mantecon as Florida’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-8, 130-pound junior distance runner won the Class 3A state titles in the 800-, 1600- and 3200-meter events this past season, leading the Wolverines to a second-place finish as a team. Mantecon also shared in the 4x400 relay quartet’s state crown. He won the 3200 in a meet-record time of 8:56.02. A two-time Gatorade State Boys Cross Country Player of the Year and the 2026 Miami Herald Track Athlete of the Year, he’s ranked No. 2 nationally in both the 3200 (8:35.33) and the 2-mile (8:44.88) among prep boys competitors in 2026 and owns the fastest 2-mile time (8:44.88) nationally. He ranks among the Top 25 nationally in the 1600 and mile as well.

Mantecon has volunteered locally as part of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami, packaging food and supplies for the homeless. He has also donated his time with the Abuelos Foundation, providing company and comfort to the elderly. “His status as a two-time Gatorade cross country winner may explain the remarkable durability and endurance Marcelo Mantecon displayed at the state meet, where he won four events in a four-hour span, including a PR in the 800 and a meet record in the 3200,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “His elite ability from 800 out to 3200 is nothing short of remarkable.”

Mantecon has maintained a 4.36 weighted GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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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