

SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Charles Sullivan of Somers High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade New York 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 Sullivan as New York’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, 225-pound senior throwing talent took second in the hammer throw at both the USATF Under-20 Championships and the Nike Outdoor Nationals this past season, earning All-American status at the latter event. Sullivan’s career-best hammer toss of 238 feet, 3 inches at the Somers Lions Club Invitational in May ranked No. 3 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring and No. 21 in prep history. The 2025 and 2026 New York State and Federation boys weight throw champion, he was the 2025 national runner-up in the hammer at New Balance Nationals Outdoor as well as in the weight throw at Nike Nationals.

Sullivan has volunteered locally as a mentor to his younger teammates and he has donated his time as a coach at the Somers Speedsters Track Camp. “Charles is one of the most dedicated, disciplined and impactful young men I have ever coached,” said Mike Lacko, head coach of Somers High School. “Driven by a relentless obsession with his craft and a fierce work ethic, he dedicated himself to countless hours of training, often when no one was watching.”

Sullivan has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete at the University of Wisconsin 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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