

## **JAY M. ROBINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Cameron Tucker of Jay M. Robinson High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade North Carolina 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 Tucker as North Carolina’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-9, 165-pound senior swept all three sprint titles at the NCHSAA Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Bulldogs to the team championship. Tucker took third at the USATF U20 Championships earlier this month with a career-best and state-record clocking of 45.15 seconds in the 400-meter dash, which ranked No. 3 nationally among prep boys competitors in 2026 and No. 9 in prep history. At the state meet in the 200, his winning time of 20.66 was a personal-best and ranked No. 8 nationally this spring as well as No. 66 in prep history.

Tucker has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and has served as a mentor at special-education events at Robinson. He has also donated his time reading to younger students. “Tucker is one of those high-demand commodities who makes collegiate programs salivate,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “He proved to be a scoring machine when the state meet arrived, yet left enough in the tank to clock a spectacular 400 at USATF U20s, which moved him into the No. 9 slot in prep history.”

Tucker has maintained a 3.33 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at the University of South Carolina 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](http://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://x.com/Gatorade).

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