

**ST. IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 James Conrad of St. Ignatius High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Ohio 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 Conrad as Ohio’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-4, 240-pound junior throwing talent set a state record in the discus at the GlenOak Second Sole Eagle Elite meet this past season, and his mark of 209 feet, 1 inch ranked No. 5 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring. Conrad also won the discus at the Division 1 state meet with a throw of 194-0, leading the Wildcats to an 11th-place finish as a team. He took third in the discus at the Arcadia Invitational in California as well.

A starting linebacker on the St. Ignatius football team, Conrad has volunteered locally as a Faith Leader at his school, mentoring fellow students on spiritual retreats throughout the year. He has also donated his time as a math tutor. “James is obviously an outstanding athlete,” said Dan Iwan, head coach of Solon High School. “I think the thing I admired about him was his ability to deliver every meet, even with the burden of being the projected winner. That’s not easy.”

Conrad has maintained a 3.88 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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