

MIFFLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Carter Smith of Mifflin County High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Pennsylvania 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 Smith as Pennsylvania’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 state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8, 130-pound senior middle distance and distance talent earned dual All-American honors at New Balance Nationals Outdoor earlier this month with a pair of runner-up finishes in the mile and as the anchor of the Huskies’ Distance Medley Relay quartet. Smith became the third Pennsylvania prep runner in history to crack the 4-minute mile barrier with his second-place finish of 3:59.00 at the HOKA Festival of Miles, which ranked No. 2 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring. He also won the 1600-meter run in 4:02.63 at the Class AAA state meet, which ranked No. 4 nationally, while his winning time of 1:48.55 in the 800 at the Brooks PR Invitational ranked No. 8.

Smith has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and mentor. “Carter Smith is a stud,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor at PrepCalTrack. “His ability to churn out nationally prominent times in both the 800 and mile over and over again is most impressive.”

Smith has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at Oklahoma State 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 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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