

## **HERRIMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 Jackson Spencer of Herriman High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Utah 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 Spencer as Utah’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-11, 135-pound senior distance talent won the New Balance Nationals Outdoor title in the 5000-meter event this past season with a time of 14:08.02—the No. 1 clocking nationally among prep boys competitors in 2026. Spencer also won the mile at the HOKA Festival of Miles in 3:57.24, which was also the No. 1 clocking among prep boys this spring in addition to being No. 4 in high school history. In addition, he set a national record in the 3200 with a time of 8:31.80 (against a prep-only field) at the Arcadia Invitational. Spencer won the 800, 1600 and 3200 titles at the Class 6A state meet as well, leading the Mustangs to the first team title in program history. He’s unbeaten this season across all of his events and ranks in the 2026 U.S. Top 20 for high school boys in four individual events.

An active member of the LDS Church and a practiced piano player, Spencer has donated his time as pacesetter at youth races and by fundraising for the Hearts of Gold charitable organization. He has volunteered locally by raking leaves and picking up trash in association with his church community. “Already this year’s Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Jackson Spencer didn’t slow down once track season rolled around,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. “He’s the fastest boys miler in the country this spring, which puts him No. 4 All-Time and the fastest 3,200-meter prep competitor in history. He also leads a Top 10 Distance Medley Relay quartet for Herriman and PR’d in the 800, which ranked U.S. No. 16 in 2026. His 8:31.80 in the 3200 is considered the national record by the National Federation of High School Associations.”

Spencer has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to compete on scholarship at Brigham Young University, but will perform a two-year LDS mission first.

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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