

## **GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 13, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Anthony Sarro of Gonzaga College High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Cross Country 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 Sarro as District of Columbia’s best high school boys cross country athlete, and he joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Lukas Verzbicas (2009-10 & 2010-11, Carl Sandburg High School, IL) Edward Cheserek (2012-13, Saint Benedict's Preparatory School, NJ) and Charlie Vause (2024-25, Rio Rancho High School, NM).

The 6-foot-2, 168-pound senior won both the DCSAA and WCAC cross country championships this past season, sparking his team to runner-up finishes at both meets. Sarro was the District’s top finisher at the Great American Cross Country Festival, where he clocked a personal-best time of 15:02.8 to take seventh. He was also D.C.’s fastest competitor at the NXN Southeast Regional thanks to a seventh-place finish in 15:10.0, which earned him First Team All-Region recognition. The All-DMV Runner of the Year, his time at Great American set a new school 5K record.

Sarro has volunteered locally supporting the homeless on behalf of the Father McKenna Center. As vice president of Gonzaga College High School’s MedStreet Club, he and his peers provide basic medical care to the homeless under the guidance of a physician. He has also donated his time to the Washington Jesuit Academic Science Fair, where he serves as a mentor to underserved youth. He completed a service-mission trip during the summer of 2025 to help a Maryland community battling rural poverty. “Anthony Sarro was the District’s top finisher at the Great American Cross Country Festival and at the NXN Southeast Regional, where he earned All-Region recognition,” said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack. “He didn’t lose to a runner from D.C. all last fall and he went sub-15:40 in his final four races of the season.”

Sarro has maintained a weighted 4.56 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Johns Hopkins 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](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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