

**THE TATNALL SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (February 13, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ben Pizarro** of **The Tatnall School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Pizarro is the third Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from The Tatnall School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Pizarro as Delaware's best high school boys cross country athlete, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Lukas Verzbicas (2009-10 & 2010-11, Carl Sandburg High School, Illinois), Edward Cheserek (2012-13, St. Benedict's Preparatory School, New Jersey) and Daniel Simmons (2022-23 & 2023-24, American Fork High School, Utah).

The 6-foot-2, 150-pound senior won the Division 2 state meet for a fifth straight time this past season, clocking a 15:27.7 and breaking the tape 20.7 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor. Pizarro’s win clinched the team title for the Hornets. He also took 40th at the NXN Southeast Regional Championships and was unbeaten against in-state competition last fall.

A competitive sailor, Pizarro has volunteered locally on behalf of the Ronald McDonald House and the All 4 Paws animal rescue service. “Ben’s passion and determination to be the best his senior year could not be stopped,” said Patrick Castagno, head coach of the The Tatnall School. “He is a humble, quiet and driven young man who ran to the top this past season.”

Pizarro has maintained an A average in the classroom. He will attend Columbia University this fall, where he will compete in cross country and track.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports - football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field - and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state winners in each sport.

Pizarro joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Ethan Walther (2023-24, Salesianum School), Jonathan Drew (2022-23, Middletown High School), Ryan Banko (2021-22, Salesianum School) and Declan McDonnell (2020-21, The Tatnall School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

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 \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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).