

ROSEVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 13, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Robert Mechura** of **Roseville Area High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Mechura is the second Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Roseville Area High 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 Mechura as Minnesota'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 5-foot-5, 115-pound senior earned dual All-American honors this past season, finishing 10th and 15th, respectively, at the national NXN Final and the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships. Mechura was the state’s top finisher at NXN nationals as well as the NXN Heartland Regional, where he clocked a 5K season-best time of 14:36.0. Ranked No. 16 in the national MileSplit 50 last fall, he also broke the tape at the Class AAA state meet, leading the Raiders to eighth place as a team.

A member of the Roseville Student Leadership Council, Mechura has volunteered locally on behalf of Special Olympics and has served as a track coach for the Roseville Parks & Recreation Department. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society. “Robert Mechura qualified for both elite national championship meets and earned All-American honors at each,” said Rich Rodriguez of PrepCalTrack. “That coupled with a state crown and bronze at NXN regionals makes him pretty hard to ignore.”

Mechura has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of North Carolina this fall.

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.

Mechura joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Sam Scott (2023-24, Southwest High School), Noah Breker (2022-23 & 2021-22, Armstrong High School) and Ethan Vargas (2020-21, Stillwater Area High 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 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.