

**MOHAWK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Jaxon Schoedel** of **Mohawk High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Schoedel is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Mohawk 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 Schoedel as Pennsylvania'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-11, 130-pound senior won his second straight PIAA Class 1A state meet this past season with an all-divisions best time of 15:52.0, breaking the tape 27 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Warriors to seventh place as a team. Schoedel took third at the NXX Northeast Regional championships—the state’s top finisher at the event—and earned First Team All-Region honors to advance to the national NXN Final, where he placed 66th. He clocked a 5K personal-best of 15:33.0 in winning at the District 7 WPIAL Championships. He was unbeaten by an in-state competitor through NXN regionals.

A member of the National Honor Society, Schoedel has volunteered locally as a summer counselor for the Vacation Bible School at Bethel Church. He has also donated his time to the Mohawk Health Careers Club by organizing an annual blood-donation drive and to Club Hope for Mohawk, participating in an easter egg hunt program for elementary school students. “Jaxon Schoedel shifted into a higher gear in his final prep distance-running postseason, first roaring to a blowout win at states before capturing bronze at Nike Cross regionals,” said Rich Rodriguez of PrepCalTrack. “It will be exciting to see how he carries that success to the track oval this spring.”

Schoedel has maintained a weighted 4.23 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Penn State University 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.

Schoedel joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Drew Griffith (2023-24 & 2022-23, Butler Area Senior High School), Gary Martin (2021-22, Archbishop Wood High School) and Brady Bigger (2020-21, State College 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](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).