

**RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Ty Jones** of **Riverside High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Jones is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Riverside 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 Jones as South Carolina’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, 155-pound senior won the Class 5A Division 2 state meet this past season with a time of 15:54.19, leading the Warriors to 9th place as a team. Jones also broke the tape at the Bob Jenkins Classic in the International Race division and clocked a 5K personal-best time of 15:03.43 in winning the Starlight Invitational. He took 13th at the adidas XC Challenge as the state’s top finisher in that event.

An active member of the St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Greenville, Jones has donated his time as part of the parish’s Rise Against Hunger event. He has also fundraised on behalf of Pumpkin Patch, which supports faith-based service missions throughout the community. “Ty Jones compiled an impressive regular-season resume and outraced the best of the rest last fall to cap his final prep distance campaign as the most logical choice for the Gatorade award,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack.

Jones has maintained a weighted 4.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Furman 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Jake Liebert (2023-24, Wando High School), Knox Young (2022-23, Greenville High School) and Sam Rich (2021-22 & 2020-21, Catawba Ridge 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).