

HURRICANE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Ty Steorts** of **Hurricane High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Steorts is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Hurricane 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 Steorts as West Virginia’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 raced to the Class AAA state title this past season with a time of 15:11.48, leading the Redskins to seventh place as a team. Steorts also broke the tape at the adidas XC Challenge and the Chick-Fil-A Invite. Ranked No. 26 in the national Dyestat 100, he earned First Team All-Region honors with a runner-up finish at the NXN Southeast Regional in a 5K personal-best time of 14:36.32—the state’s fastest of 2024 by 36.6 seconds. He was the state’s 2022-23 Gatorade Boys Cross Country Player of the Year as well.

Steorts has volunteered extensively on behalf of Meeks Mountain Trails, a non-profit organization that develops mountain biking, hiking and running trails at a local park. He has also donated his time to Backpack Buddies helping to pack meal boxes for low-income students in addition to working with Lulu’s Closet and the Ronald McDonald House. “Ty Steorts’ speed from the outdoor track season—where he set a state meet record in the 1600—carried over into last fall,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “He went sub-15 for 5K multiple times culminating with his personal-best, All-Region run at NXN Southeast.”

Steorts has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of Tennessee 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.

Two-time winner Steorts joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Brayden Marshall (2023-24, Winfield High School) and Josh Edwards (2021-22 & 2020-21, University 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.