BELEN JESUIT PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE FLORIDA BOYS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 25, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Joseph 'Tiago' Socarras of Belen Jesuit Preparatory School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Player of the Year.

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 Socarras as Florida's best high school track & field athlete, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Alan Webb (2000-01, South Lakes High School, Va.), Kerron Clement (2002-03, Laporte High School, Texas) and Christian Miller (2023-24, Creekside High School, Fl.).

The 5-foot-10, 155-pound senior distance and middle-distance talent won a Class 3A state title in the 800-meter run this past season, leading the Wolverines to the team title. Socarras also won the 800 at the Arcadia Invitational, establishing a new meet record with a time of 1:47.66. His personal-best 800 of 1:47.60 at the Brooks PR Invitational ranked No. 5 nationally among prep boys competitors this spring.

Socarras has volunteered locally at Lotus House by preparing food. He has also donated his time by distributing gifts to families in need during the holidays. "Tiago Socarras' legs are like lightning rods," said Rich Gonzalez, editor of PrepCalTrack.com. "When they strike, it's game-over for the competition. Yes, he's that electric."

Socarras has maintained a 4.88 weighted GPA in the classroom. He will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall, where he will compete in track and field.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>, Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.

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