

MIFFLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 **Carter Smith** of **Mifflin County High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Pennsylvania 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 Smith as Pennsylvania'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-7, 130-pound junior middle-distance talent won the mile run at New Balance Nationals Outdoor this past season and his personal-best time of 4:01.20 ranked No. 7 nationally among boys prep competitors this spring. Carter also swept the 800- and 1600-meter runs at the Class 3A state meet, and his time of 4:01.54 in the latter ranked No. 2 nationally at the time of his selection.

Having recently learned to play the acoustic guitar, Smith has volunteered locally with the Juniata Valley Striders track club as a mentor to new runners. "Carter Smith defied the odds this year," said Rich Gonzalez, editor for PrepCalTrack.com. "He came out blazing and produced an absolutely dazzling junior year that concluded with a national title."

Smith has maintained a B average in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

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, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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