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**SPRING CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 12, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced William Fallini-Haas of Spring Creek High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Fallini-Haas is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Spring Creek High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Fallini-Haas as Nevada's best high school boys cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Fallini-Haas joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Prep., San Luis Obispo, Calif.), Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury, Conn.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-5, 117-pound senior raced to the Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:39, leading the Spartans to the state title as a team. Fallini-Haas also broke the tape at the Elko Invitational, the Lowry Invitational and the Regional championships. He took second at the Capital Cross Challenge and the Douglas Class Races and was 62nd at the Foot Locker West Regional championships.

Vice President of his class, Fallini-Haas has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, a homeless shelter, an elderly care facility, food-donation drives and the Shop With a Cop program. "William has only participated in cross country the past two seasons, but he's finished as our number one runner in every race," said Spring Creek coach Todd Mahlke. "He's a very hard-working young man who leads by example with his dedication to the sport and commitment to excellence."

Fallini-Haas has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Fallini-Haas joins Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Anthony Ocegueda (2016-17, Reed High School), Chase Wood (2015-16, Faith Lutheran High School), DaJour Braxton (2014-15, Centennial High School), Kai Benedict (2013-14, McQueen High School), Jordan Cardenas (2012-13, Reno High School), Nick Hartle (2011-12 & 2010-11, Centennial High School), Wade Meddles (2009-10 & 2008-09, Sierra Lutheran High School), and Bryan Tibaduiza (2007-08, Galena High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Fallini-Haas will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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