

FAYETTEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 11, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Camren Fischer of Fayetteville High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Fischer is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Fayetteville 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 Fischer as Arkansas' 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 February, Fischer joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg, Orland Park High School, Ill.), Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury, Conn.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill.).

The state's two-time returning Gatorade Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-10, 135-pound senior won the Class 6A state meet this past season with a time of 16:19.9, breaking the tape 7.2 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Bulldogs to a second-place finish as a team. Fischer took second at the Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships and was fifth at the Foot Locker South Regional championships. He placed 25th at the national Foot Locker championships and 55th at NXN Final.

Fischer has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and he has donated his time by promoting running in area elementary schools. "Camren Fischer is one of the most talented runners to come through the state of Arkansas," said Carlton Efurd, head coach of Rogers High. "What makes Camren special is the combination of foot speed and endurance. He is talented in the 800 [meters] up to the 5K."

Fischer has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He has made a verbal commitment to attend Princeton University, where he will run for the cross country and track teams, beginning this fall.

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. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Three-time winner Fischer joins Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year T.J. Sugg (2015-16 & 2014-15, Har-Ber High School), and Jacob Shiohira (2013-14, Bentonville High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Fischer has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of his choosing. He is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.