

NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Obsaa Feda of Northwood High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Maryland Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Feda is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Northwood 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 Feda as Maryland'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 February, Feda 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 5-foot-8, 125-pound senior won the Class 4A state meet this past season with a time of 15:44.05, leading the Gladiators to a second-place finish as a team. Feda took eighth at the Nike Cross National Southeast Regional championships, and was undefeated during the regular season.

A native of Ethiopia, Feda was named a D.C. United Community Star for his service in the community. A member of the East African Student Association at Northwood High, he has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through his church. "Obsaa made running ridiculously fast look easy," said Zack Dickerson, head coach of Howard High School. "He has gradually improved season to season, and the work he put in this offseason really set him apart from the rest of the state."

Feda has maintained a 3.57 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. 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.

Feda joins Gatorade Maryland Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Dalton Hengst (2017-18 & 2016-17, McDonogh School), Eric Walz (2015-16, Dulaney High School), Diego Zarate (2014-15, Northwest High School), and Ryan Forsyth (2013-14, Severna Park 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," Feda 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.

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