

WEST MORRIS MENDHAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 **Jack Stanley of West Morris Mendham High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Stanley is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from West Morris Mendham 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 Stanley as New Jersey'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, Stanley 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, 135-pound senior won the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships this past season with a time of 15:30.2. Stanley took seventh nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships and 19th at the Nike Cross Nationals Final, earning All-American honors at both national title meets. He broke the tape at the Group 3 state meet in 15:45 and crossed the line second at the Meet of Champions. Stanley won the Shore Coaches Invitational, the Morris County championships and the Bernie Magee Class Meet during the 2018 campaign.

Stanley has volunteered locally as an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. "Jack is extremely talented and courageous, and the best runner I've ever coached," said Mendham coach Roy Hamblen. "He's also the most unselfish runner I've coached. He'll do whatever the team needs him to do, without question."

Stanley has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Princeton University this fall, where he will compete in cross country and track and field.

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.

Stanley joins Gatorade New Jersey Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Devin Hart (2017-18, Point Pleasant Borough High School), Elliot Gindi (2016-17, Ocean Township High School), Joshua Clark (2015-16, Highland Regional High School), Nikhil Pulimood (2014-15, West Windsor-Plainsboro South High School), and Mike McClemens (2013-14, Christian Brothers Academy) 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," Stanley 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.