

MAINE-ENDWELL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Parker Stokes of Maine-Endwell High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Stokes is the first Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Maine-Endwell 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 Stokes as New York'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, Stokes 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 6-foot-3, 147-pound senior won the Nike Cross Nationals New York Regional championships this past season with a time of 15:51. Stokes placed 22nd nationally at the NXN Final. He finished second at the Class B State Championship meet in 15:57 and broke the tape at the Section 4 championships, the Tully Invitational, the Marathon Invitational, the Newark Valley/Bob Green Invitational and the Owego Invitational.

Also a standout swimmer and a talented musician, Stokes is vice president of his school's Student Council and has volunteered locally as an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. "Parker is one of the most disciplined athletes I've ever known," said Maine-Endwell coach Megan Jacoby. "He's also extremely humble and kind, and he's been an amazing team leader and teammate."

Stokes has maintained an A average in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at Georgetown University 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.

Stokes joins Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Mason Gatewood (2017-18, St. Anthony's High School), Ty Brownlow (2016-17, Liverpool High School), Ben Petrella (2015-16, Liverpool High School), Bryce Millar (2014-15, Fayetteville-Manlius High School), and Mickey Burke (2013-14, Rush-Henrietta Senior 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," Stokes 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.