

ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 **Evan Holland of Ashland High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Holland is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Ashland 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 Holland as Oregon'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, Holland joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg High School, 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-2, 140-pound junior won the Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:30. Holland also broke the tape at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships in 15:10.4 and placed 16th nationally at the NXN Final, earning All-American honors. He posted additional victories at the Nike BorderClash, the Northwest Classic, the Warner Pacific Classic and the State of Jefferson Invitational.

A devoted member of the Boy Scouts of America, Holland has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank and a Christmas tree recycling program. "What sets Evan apart is his racing IQ," said Ashland coach Hans Voskes. "He enters every race with a plan, but he also has the ability to read the race and make the appropriate adjustments. He's a team leader with an incredible future."

Holland has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Holland joins Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Andy Monroe (2017-18 & 2016-17, Crater High School), Ahmed Muhumed (2015-16, West Salem High School), and Matthew Maton (2014-15 & 2013-14, Summit 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," Holland 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.

###