

## MOUNT LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (February 11, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Patrick Anderson of Mount Lebanon High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Anderson is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Mount Lebanon 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 Anderson as Pennsylvania'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, Anderson 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 5-foot-8, 150-pound junior raced to the Class AAA individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:03. Anderson took sixth at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships and finished 29th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships. Anderson also won the TSTCA Championship, the Marty Uher Invitational, the Kiski Area Invitational and the District 7 championships.

A devoted member of his church community, Anderson has served on his school's Link Crew and has participated in multiple service-mission trips to assist the needy. "I've been coaching for 53 years and Patrick Anderson is the best all-around kid that I've had," said Mount Lebanon coach Mike Agostinella. "We knew that he was going to be pretty good this year, and he ended up having a great season. He's a very, very aggressive runner and he's really developed a lot of confidence."

Anderson has maintained a 4.0 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.

Anderson joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Rusty Kujdych (2017-18, Neshaminy High School), Noah Affolder (2016-17, Carlisle High School), Jake Brophy (2015-16 & 2014-15, Central Bucks East High School) and Tony Russell (2013-14, Henderson 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," Anderson 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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