

**DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 10, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Brady Yoder of Dickinson High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Yoder is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Dickinson 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 Yoder as North Dakota'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, Yoder 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, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-8, 140-pound junior raced to the Class A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:21. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Yoder also broke the tape at the Anderson/Stavn Invitational, the Billings Invitational and the Western Dakota Association championships. He took eighth at the Nike Cross Nationals Heartland Regional championships.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Yoder has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Brady is always doing the little things the right way to make himself the best runner possible," said Dickinson coach Greg Jung. "He had to overcome a lower foot injury midway through the season, but he never lost his mental focus and he finished the season on an outstanding note."

Yoder has maintained a 3.94 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 and 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.

Two-time winner Yoder joins Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year Evan Sayler (2017-18, Century High School), Hunter Lucas (2016-17, Davies High School), and Sam Clausnitzer (2015-16 & 2014-15, Bismarck High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Yoder 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](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).