

**SHELBY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO 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 Caleb Brown of Shelby High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Shelby 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 Brown as Ohio'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, Brown 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 6-foot, 150-pound senior won the Division 2 state meet this past season, clocking a course-record time of 15:05.1 and breaking the tape 8.2 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor. Brown earned All-American status by finishing third at the Nike Cross Nationals Final, less than a month after taking second at the NXN Midwest Regional championships. He is a six-time state champion between cross country and track and field, and he was the 2019 New Balance National Outdoor champion in the 2-mile run last spring.

Brown has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. Caleb's accomplishments on the cross country course speak for themselves," said Randy Foster, head coach of Edison High. "Someone who is a multi-time All-American could easily ignore runners who are not to his level in the running circles, but Caleb makes the time to interact with them. He has even shared some of his training secrets with my runners."

Brown has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run cross country on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year Conant Smith (2018-19, Middletown High School), Dustin Horter (2017-18 & 2016-17, Lakota East High School), Andrew Jordan (2015-16, Watkins Memorial High School) and Michael Vitucci (2014-15, St. Xavier High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Brown 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).