

**LA SALLE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Jack McLoughlin of La Salle Academy as its 2019-20 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. McLoughlin is the second Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from La Salle Academy.

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 McLoughlin as Rhode Island'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, McLoughlin 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-10, 120-pound junior placed second at the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast Regional championships this past season with a time of 15:50.9, just 1.3 seconds behind the Connecticut-based winner. McLoughlin was also the top Rhode Island finisher at the NXN Final, taking 35<sup>th</sup> place. He was the best in-state runner at the New England Cross Country Championships as well, finishing third. McLoughlin was the runner-up at the 2019 state meet in 15:23.5, leading the Rams to a first-place finish as a team.

McLoughlin, who is a candidate for Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, has volunteered locally collecting supplies for a food bank as well as with Franklin Farm in Cumberland. He has also donated his time with the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program and Soles for Souls. "Jack McLoughlin was the quiet leader of a very talented La Salle squad," said Paul Tetreault, head coach of North Kingstown High. "He just seemed to always come through fearlessly in the big, pressure-packed races.

McLoughlin has maintained a weighted A average 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.

McLoughlin joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year Jack McMahan (2018-2019, Bishop Hendricken High School), Jeffery Pedersen (2017-18, East Greenwich High School) and D.J. Principe (2016-17, 2015-16, & 2014-15, La Salle Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

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