

**HORTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 10, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Jake Krause of Hortonville High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Krause is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Hortonville 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 Krause as Wisconsin'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, Krause 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-1, 165-pound senior won the Division 1 state meet with a time of 15:34.2, breaking the tape 8.3 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Polar Bears to a third-place finish as a team. He won six of 10 races on the season and never finished lower than third.

An accomplished guitarist, Krause is a member of the Hortonville High Ski Club and he has volunteered locally with the Hortonville Recreation Department. "Jake's biggest strength is knowing how to prepare and compete in the meets that matter most," said Mike Heling, head coach of Kimberly High. "When the bright lights are on, he embraces the pressure and shines."

Krause has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Krause joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year Drew Bosley (2018-19 & 2017-18, Homestead High School), Finn Gessner (2016-17 & 2015-16, La Follette High School), and Olin Hacker (2014-15, Madison West High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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