

## NATHAN HALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (May 10, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Joshua Truchon of Nathan Hale High School** as its **2020-21 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Truchon is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Nathan Hale 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 Truchon as Wisconsin's best high school boys cross country player. Truchon joins an elite alumni association of 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-11, 136-pound senior won the Division 1 state meet this past season with a time of 15:18.3, breaking the tape 19.7 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor. Undeclared against in-state competition, Truchon finished 15th at the national XC Town USA Meet of Champions and he took eighth at the Nike Cross Virtual National Championships.

A member of the Nathan Hale High School student council and the Order of the Arrow Scouts National Honor Society, Truchon is a group leader with his local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "Joshua is such a powerful runner and competitor," said Randy Bucheger, head coach of Brookfield East High. "He pulls away from other great runners and never lets up. I've never seen him use his closing speed, which I know he has, but he's never had to use it."

Truchon has maintained a weighted 4.54 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run 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 & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Truchon joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Jake Krause (2019-20, Hortonville High School), Drew Bosley (2018-19 & 2017-18, Homestead High School), and Finn Gessner (2016-17, La Follette High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Truchon has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Truchon is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), 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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