

## CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR

**CHICAGO** (February 11, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Daniel Bausch of Chugiak High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Bausch is the first Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Chugiak 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 Bausch as Alaska'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, Bausch joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg, Orland Park High School, Ill.), Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury, Conn.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-9, 147-pound senior won the Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:30. Bausch took eighth at the Foot Locker West Regional championships and finished 16th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships. He also broke the tape at the Region IV championships and the Bartlett State Preview meet.

Bausch has volunteered locally on behalf of youth running programs. "Daniel is a real student of the sport of running, and simply the most driven athlete I know," said Chugiak coach Melissa Hall. "He's overcome a lot in his life and has really been able to flourish this year."

Bausch has maintained a B average in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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. 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.

Bausch joins Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jacob Moos (2017-18, Galena City Schools), Gus Schumacher (2016-17, Service High School), Kaleb Korta (2015-16, Galena City Schools), and Levi Thomet (2014-15 & 2013-14, Kodiak High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

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

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