

REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (February 11, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation’s best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Liam Anderson of Redwood High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Anderson is the first Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Redwood 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 Anderson as California’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, Anderson 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-7, 130-pound senior raced to the national championship this past season with a course-record time of 14:57.6 at the Nike Cross Nationals Final. The state’s returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Anderson won the Division 3 individual state championship in 14:55.3. He also broke the tape first at the Marin County Athletic League championships, the North Coast Section championships, the Mariner Invitational and the Clovis Invitational.

A certified Wilderness First Responder and a member of the Marin County Search and Rescue team, Anderson has volunteered as a tutor for freshmen in his school. “Liam has both talent and work ethic, but it’s his commitment to the year-over-year, season-over-season process, paired with his race-day acumen, that makes him a unique athlete,” said Redwood coach Laura Schmitt. “It’s been an absolute joy working with him for the past four years.”

Anderson has maintained a weighted 4.26 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at Stanford University 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. 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.

Two-time winner Anderson joins Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Callum Bolger (2016-17, San Luis Obispo High School), Phillip Rocha (2015-16, Arcadia High School), Austin Tamagno (2014-15, Brea Olinda High School), and Blake Haney (2013-14, Stockdale 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,” Anderson 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.