

DICKINSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 **Brady Yoder of Dickinson High School** as its **2018-19 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Yoder is the first Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Dickinson 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 Yoder as North Dakota'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, Yoder 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-8, 130-pound sophomore captured the Western Dakota Association championship this past season with a time of 15:45.31. Yoder took second at the Class A State Championship meet in 15:48.8 and finished 16th at the Nike Cross Nationals Heartland Regional championships. He also broke the tape at the Mandan Invitational, the Roy Griak Invitational, the Northern Hills Invitational and the Becki Wells Invitational.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Yoder has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs. "Brady was on a mission from day one of practice this year," said Dickinson coach Greg Jung. "He's a very mature runner for his age and he leads our team by example. His record this season speaks for itself."

Yoder has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior 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 & 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.

Yoder joins Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Evan Sayler (2017-18, Century High School), Hunter Lucas (2016-17, Davies High School), Sam Clausnitzer (2015-16 & 2014-15, Bismarck High School), and Matt Gotta (2013-14, Bismarck 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," Yoder 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.

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