

**MOUNT LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Patrick Anderson of Mount Lebanon High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Anderson is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Mount Lebanon 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 Pennsylvania'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 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-9, 155-pound senior raced to the Class AAA individual state championship this past season with a course-record time of 15:25.6. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Anderson broke the tape at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships in 15:17 and finished third at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships to earn All-American honors. He also won at the TSTCA championships, the Marty Uher Invitational, the WPIAL championships, the PIAA Foundation Invitational and the Red, White & Blue Classic in 2019.

A devoted member of his church community, Anderson has served on his school's Link Crew and has volunteered locally on behalf of a hospice care center. "Patrick is nationally ranked and a two-time state champion, but he remains humble and down-to-earth," said Mount Lebanon coach Mike Agostinella. "He's the type of guy you hope your son grows up to be."

Anderson has maintained a weighted 4.9 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Two-time winner Anderson joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year Rusty Kujdych (2017-18, Neshaminy High School), Noah Affolder (2016-17, Carlisle High School), and Jake Brophy (2015-16 & 2014-15, Central Bucks East High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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.