

**STAR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WYOMING BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 10, 2020) — In its 35<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Peter Visser of Star Valley High School as its 2019-20 Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Visser is the second Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Star Valley 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 Visser as Wyoming'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, Visser 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 6-foot-1, 140-pound junior repeated as Class 3A state champion this past season, clocking a time of 16:01.3 to break the tape 29.3 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and lead the Braves to the state team title. Visser, the state's returning Gatorade Runner of the Year earned All-Region honors by finishing eighth at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships. Undefeated against in-state competition, he also crossed the line 21st at the Foot Locker West Regional championships.

Visser works at his family's bicycle store. He has volunteered locally on behalf of community beautification projects and has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Peter is the best runner in Wyoming, period," said Kevin Green, head coach of Lander Valley High. "He's built like a runner, and he knows when and how to surge and recover."

Visser has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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 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 Visser joins Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year Albert Steiner (2017-18, Laramie High School), Shane Henderson (2016-17, Star Valley High School), and Brody Smith (2015-16 & 2014-15, Cody High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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