

**COE-BROWN NORTHWOOD ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (April 15, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Aidan Cox of Coe-Brown Northwood Academy as its 2020-21 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Cox is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy.

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 Cox as New Hampshire's best high school boys cross country player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Player of the Year award to be announced in April, Cox joins an elite alumni association of 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-10-inch, 130-pound sophomore distance talent capped a remarkable campaign by breaking the state 5K record, clocking a 14:58.80 to win the NHIAA Meet of Champions by 25 seconds this past season and leading the Black Bears to the team title. Prior to his record run, Cox broke the Derryfield Park course record in winning the Division 2 state championships with a time of 15:15.40. The 2020 NHCC Runner of the Year, Cox is a two-time All-Division 2 and a 2020 All-State selection. He finished 10th nationally in the final 2020 MileSplit50 boys cross country rankings, and his state meet speed rating by Dyestat and TullyRunners.com ranked No. 12 nationally. According to the Association of Road Racing Statisticians, Cox still owns the world 5K record for the 11-year-old age group (16:37).

A member of his school's Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT), Cox has volunteered on behalf of the New Hampshire Thunder youth running program. "Aidan Cox is only a sophomore yet he is the fastest New Hampshire high schooler ever on the famed Derryfield Park course—he set the Division 2 state record there on a day that had snow on the ground," said Scott McGrath, head coach at Oyster River High. "That was easily the most impressive run I've seen on that course in my 20 years in the sport here. The following weekend at the Meet of Champions, he set the course record and dipped under 15 minutes. He is probably New Hampshire's next once-in-a-generation talent. In my opinion, his worthiness for Gatorade Runner of the Year honors is indisputable."

Cox has maintained a 101.1 weighted average 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. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Cox joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Jake Velazquez (2019-20, Keene High School), Forest MacKenzie (2018-19 & 2017-18, Concord High School), and Patrick O'Brien (2016-17, Oyster River High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Cox has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Cox is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), 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).

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