

**BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (April 15, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Sean Korsmo of Bismarck High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Korsmo is the fifth Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Bismarck 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 Korsmo as North Dakota'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, Korsmo 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, 144-pound senior raced to the Class A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:28. Korsmo also won the Western Dakota Association championship, the Becki Wells Invitational, the Mandan Kiwanis Invitational and the Orriginals Invitational. He took 16th at the national XC Town USA Meet of Champions.

President of his school's Student Council, Korsmo has participated in a service-mission trip to Guatemala and has volunteered locally as a Sunday school teacher and as a mentor for at-risk youth. "Sean Korsmo is a fearless young man of great faith," said Bismarck High School coach Darrell Anderson. "He follows through with high levels of commitment to the task at hand, yet truly cares about others' success as much as his own."

Korsmo has maintained a 4.09 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 Tulsa 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.

Korsmo joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Brady Yoder (2019-20 & 2018-19, Dickinson High School), Evan Sayler (2017-18, Century High School), and Hunter Lucas (2016-17, Davies High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Korsmo has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Korsmo 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, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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