

**LAKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Nathan Moore of Lake High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Moore is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake 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 Moore as Ohio'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, Moore 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, 140-pound senior won the Division 1 state meet this past season with a time of 14:59.5, breaking the tape 27.1 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor. Moore also placed fifth at the XC Town USA Meet of Champions in Indiana. Moore won all nine of his races against in-state competition in 2020 and is a three-time All-Ohio honoree. He finished the season ranked No. 6 in the country by MileSplit.com.

A talented pianist and violinist, Moore has volunteered at Lake High with special needs students. He has also donated his time locally with multiple community service initiatives through his church. "I always knew Nathan was going to be a very good runner, however, I had no idea of the greatness that was in store for him," said Jeff Wertman, head coach of Lake High School. "The great thing about Nathan is how he has rubbed off on everyone else on the team. Teammates made dramatic improvements just because Nathan led by example."

Moore has maintained a weighted 3.96 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run cross country on scholarship at Walsh University (N.C.) 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.

Moore joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Caleb Brown (2019-20, Shelby High School), Conant Smith (2018-19, Middletown High School), and Dustin Horter (2017-18 & 2016-17, Lakota East High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Moore has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Moore 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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