

**LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Aiden Britt of Lebanon High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Britt is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from 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 Britt as Tennessee'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, Britt 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 6-foot, 150-pound senior won the Division 1 Large School state meet this past season with a time of 15:29.69, breaking the tape 6.43 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor. Britt won six of the seven 5K races he entered, and he also broke the tape at the 3,200-meter Memphis Fall Track Classic. He is a four-time state qualifier and a three-time Tennessean All Mid-State Runner of the Year finalist.

A member of the Future Business Leaders of America, Britt has volunteered locally as a camp counselor and youth soccer coach. "Aiden Britt is a grind-it-out kind of kid that doesn't show his hand early (in a race)," said Lance Winders, head coach of Henry County High. "He's very patient. He is the runner's version of forged steel."

Britt has maintained a weighted 4.43 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run cross country and track on scholarship at the University of Mississippi 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.

Britt joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Silas Winders (2019-20, Henry County High School), Jake Renfree (2018-19, Knoxville Catholic High School), Carter Coughlin (2017-18, Webb School of Knoxville), and Brodey Hasty (2016-17, Brentwood High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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