

**STAR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WYOMING 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 Peter Visser of Star Valley High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Visser is the second Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Player 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 player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Player of the Year award to be announced in April, Visser 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 state's two-time returning Gatorade Player of the Year and the 2019-20 Gatorade Boys Track & Field Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1, 140-pound senior won the Class 3A state meet for a third-straight year this past season with a time of 15:48.76, breaking the tape 42.56 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Braves to a second-place finish as a team. Visser set a state record of 14:56.8 with his second-place finish at the Hydrangea Ranch Time Trial in Tillamook, Ore., and he also placed seventh at the XC Town USA Meet of Champions.

Visser works at his family bicycle store. He has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects and he has donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Peter Visser is simply in his own league," said Kevin Green, head coach of Lander Valley High. "He stands above the rest."

Visser has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run cross country on scholarship at Weber State University 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.

Three-time winner Visser joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Albert Steiner (2017-18, Laramie High School), and Shane Henderson (2016-17, Star Valley High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through 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 their choosing. Visser 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](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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