

**MOAPA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 10, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Preston Humes of Moapa Valley High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Humes is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Moapa 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 Humes as Nevada's best high school boys cross country player. Humes 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-8, 130-pound senior won the Class 3A Southern Regional championship this past season with a time of 16:31.5. Humes was undefeated during the recent spring season and placed 46th at the Desert Twilight Festival last fall. He finished seventh at the Class 3A state meet as a junior.

Humes has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives with his church. "Preston Humes exemplifies everything that I expect out of a cross country athlete," said Moapa Valley coach Gary Watkins. "He set the team culture of winning, sportsmanship, camaraderie and excellence."

Humes has maintained a 4.14 GPA in the classroom. He will attend Southern Virginia University after completing a two-year service mission for the LDS church.

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.

Humes joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Christian Franklin (2019-20, Valley High School), Jared Marchegger (2018-19, Sierra Lutheran High School), William Fallini-Haas (2017-18, Spring Creek High School), and Anthony Ocegueda (2016-17, Reed High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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