

**ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 10, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Cameron Stein of Ashland High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Stein is the second Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Ashland 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 Stein as Oregon's best high school boys cross country player. Stein 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-9, 120-pound senior won the Rose City Championship this past season with a time of 14:32.2. Stein also captured the Southern Oregon Regional championship in 14:40.6. He took fifth at the Class 5A state meet as a junior, helping the Grizzlies to the state title as a team.

Stein has volunteered locally on behalf of relief efforts for wildfire victims and for the Ashland Parks and Recreation Youth Conservation Corps. "Cam's hunger to be the best, even while running in the shadow of some of the best runners in the Northwest, never diminished," said Ashland coach Karl Pryor. "He has an abiding confidence in himself. He knew his time would come."

Stein has maintained a 4.08 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 Oregon 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.

Stein joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Evan Holland (2019-20 & 2018-19, Ashland High School), and Andy Monroe (2017-18 & 2016-17, Crater High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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