

**KAMIAKIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Isaac Teeples of Kamiakin High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Player of the Year. Teeples is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Kamiakin 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 Teeples as Washington's best high school boys cross country player. Teeples 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, 139-pound junior won the Mid-Columbia Conference championship this past season with a time of 15:35.2. Teeples was undefeated against in-state competition and took fourth in the Club Sweeps race at the prestigious Desert Twilight XC Festival, making him the top finisher from Washington State at the event. As a sophomore, he won the Class 3A state title and finished fifth at the Nike **Cross** Nationals Northwest Regional championships.

An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Teeples has volunteered locally on behalf of the Benton County Canine Center and multiple community road races. He has also participated in a service-mission trip to Uganda. "Isaac has amazing ability and talent, yet he works as hard or harder than any athlete I've ever coached," said Kamiakin coach Matt Rexus. "His goals are elite in every way and he isn't afraid of the pain that comes from working hard in this sport."

Teeples has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Teeples joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Wil Smith (2019-20, Lewis & Clark High School), Joe Waskom (2018-19, Mount Si High School), James Mwaura (2017-18, Lincoln High School), and Tivedu Proctor (2016-17, The Northwest School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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