

**CHELSEA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 31, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Miles Brush** of **Chelsea High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Alabama Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Brush is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Chelsea 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 Brush as Alabama'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 February, Brush 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, 128-pound senior raced to the Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:23.96. Brush also won the Last Chance Invitational, the Randolph Invitational and the prestigious Jesse Owens Classic. He also broke the tape at the Shelby County championship and the Section 4 championship.

A devoted member of his church community, Brush has participated in multiple mission trips to assist impoverished families in Mexico and has volunteered on behalf of both Rise Against Hunger and Alabama Childhood Food Solutions. "Miles had the best season of any runner in the state," said Chelsea High School assistant coach Scott Fuqua. "He possesses a tremendous amount of physical ability, but what really sets him apart is his work ethic and character."

Brush has maintained a 4.36 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Brush joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Ethan Strand (2020-21 & 2019-20, Vestavia Hills High School) and Will Stone (2018-19 & 2017-18, Homewood High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Brush has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Brush is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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