

**ST. ALBANS SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 **Pierre Attiogbe** of **St. Albans School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Attiogbe is the fifth Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Albans 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 Attiogbe as District of Columbia'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, Attiogbe 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, 130-pound junior raced to the individual title at the D.C. State Athletic Association championships this past season with a time of 16:00.9, leading the Bulldogs to second place as a team. In addition, Attiogbe broke the tape at the Interstate Athletic Conference championship and the Landon Invitational. He also won the Skip Grant Invitational.

Attiogbe has volunteered locally on behalf of the Martha's Table charity. "Pierre Attiogbe has been as competitive a runner as any we've ever had at St. Albans," said St. Albans coach Jim Ehrenhaft. "His diligence, intelligence, toughness and talent combine to produce a formidable competitor, and, to this point in his track and cross country career, he has achieved a pace ahead of almost every runner in school history in terms of race times."

Attiogbe has maintained an A average 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Attiogbe joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Damian Hackett (2020-21, St. Albans School), Cullen Capuano (2019-20, Gonzaga College High School), Luke Tewart (2018-19, Washington Latin Public Charter School), and Gavin McElhennon (2017-18, Gonzaga College 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, Attiogbe 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. Attiogbe 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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