

**CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 **Kole Mathison** of **Carmel High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Indiana Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Mathison is the second Gatorade Indiana Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Carmel 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 Mathison as Indiana'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, Mathison 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 6-foot-3, 150-pound junior raced to fifth place at the national Eastbay Cross Country Championships this past season with a time of 15:22.3, earning All-American status. Mathison also earned All-American honors at the national Garmin RunningLane Cross Country Championships, finishing ninth. He won the Semi-State championship, the Regional championship, the Eagle Classic and the Nike XC Town Twilight Invitational, while finishing fourth at the state championship meet and eighth at the Eastbay Midwest Regional Championships.

A devoted member of his church youth group, Mathison has served as an elementary school mentor and has raised funds to benefit pediatric cancer research. He's also participated in a mission trip to distribute clean water filters in Cuba. "Kole's training and specific workouts are on par with what high-performing college athletes can do," said Carmel High School coach Colin Altevogt. "Despite some minor setbacks this fall, he has raced at a nationally elite level. He's had an incredible three seasons of high school cross country so far."

Mathison has maintained a 4.04 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Mathison joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Izaiah Steury (2020-21, Angola High School), Gabriel Sanchez (2019-20, Lowell High School), Cole Hocker (2018-19, Cathedral High School), and Matthew Schadler (2017-18, Reitz Memorial 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, Mathison 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. Mathison 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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