

**SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Tanner Klumph** of **Sentinel High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Klumph is the second Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Sentinel 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 Klumph as Montana'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, Klumph 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, 155-pound senior won the Class AA state meet this past season with a time of 15:56.21, breaking the tape 10.88 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Spartans to a second-place finish as a team. Klumph clocked the state's best 5K time of 2021 with 15:40.66 to win the Coaches Invite in the season's opening race. He also won the Runner's Edge Missoula City Meet and crossed the line 128th at the Eastbay West Regional Championships.

President of the Sentinel High National Honor Society, Klumph has played the string bass since he was in the fifth grade. He has volunteered locally as a youth tutor and track coach, and has also donated his time on behalf of multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Tanner is very open when it comes to his training and is always willing to learn and absorb as much information as possible," said Diego Hammett, head coach of Sentinel High School. "He's a hard worker."

Klumph has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Minnesota 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.

Klumph joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Stirling Marshall-Pryde (2020-21, Bozeman High School), Simon Hill (2019-20, Glacier High School), Ben Perrin (2018-19, Flathead High School), and Duncan Hamilton (2017-18, Bozeman 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, Klumph 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. Klumph 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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