

**COE-BROWN NORTHWOOD ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Aidan Cox** of **Coe-Brown Northwood Academy** is the **2021-22 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Cox is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy.

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 Cox as New Hampshire'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, Cox 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 state's returning Gatorade New Hampshire Player of the Year in cross country, the 6-foot, 140-pound junior distance talent led the Black Bears to the NHIAA Division 2 team title this past season, breaking the tape to capture the individual crown with a time of 15:54.00, the fastest clocking among divisional champions. Cox also won the NHIAA Meet of Champions and the NXR Northeast Regional en route to taking seventh in the Gold race at the national RunningLane Cross Country Championships. His time of 14:18.43 set a personal-best and broke the boys prep state record for 5K. The 2021 NHCC Runner of the Year, a Division 2 All-Star and a RunningLane All-American, he finished No. 9 in the 2021 Dyestat national Top 100 rankings.

A member of his school's Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT), Cox has volunteered on behalf of the New Hampshire Thunder youth running program. He is also a member of the National Honor Society. "Having coached cross country for the last 40 years in New Hampshire, I've witnessed the inexorable improvements of times and performance from the state's runners," said David Goldsmith, head coach at Keene High School. "Each generation has set new standards of performance, and each successive generation of runners took up that challenge. With Aidan Cox, cross country in this state has reached a new pinnacle. His relentless, attacking racing style and supreme focus have set a high bar for the next generation. And, he has another full year to lay down a truly formidable challenge for future Granite State runners."

Cox has maintained a 101.4 weighted 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.

Two-time winner Cox joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Jake Velazquez (2019-20, Keene High School), and Forest MacKenzie (2018-19 & 2017-18, Concord 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, Cox 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. Cox 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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