

**CRATER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Tyrone Gorze** of **Crater High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Gorze is the second Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Crater 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 Gorze as Oregon'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, Gorze 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 Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:05.2, leading the Comets to the state team title. Gorze broke the tape at the Eastbay West Regional Championships in 15:10 and finished sixth at the national Eastbay Cross Country Championships, earning All-American honors in the process. He also recorded wins at the Pacific Northwest Regional Showcase, the Bill Springhorn Classic, the Max King Invitational, the Cascade Invitational and the Saxon Invitational.

A devoted member of his church community, Gorze has volunteered locally on behalf of food-donation drives for the needy and an elementary school reading initiative. "Tyrone is an athlete who does everything right," said Crater High School coach Justin Loftus. "Whether it's rest, recovery, nutrition, sleep, he's committed to every detail. He also has a drive I've never seen before—he's always hungry for more and is never satisfied."

Gorze has maintained a 3.87 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.

Gorze joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Cameron Stein (2020-21, Ashland High School), Evan Holland (2019-20 & 2018-19, Ashland High School), and Andy Monroe (2017-18, Crater 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, Gorze 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. Gorze 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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