

**KAMIAKIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Isaac Teeples** of **Kamiakin High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Teeples is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Kamiakin 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 Teeples as Washington'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, Teeples 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, 139-pound senior raced to the Class 4A individual state championship this past season with a time of 14:57.8, leading the Braves to the state team title. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year in boys cross country, Teeples took second at the Nike Cross Northwest Regional Championships and finished 10th at the national Garmin RunningLane Cross Country Championships in 14:23.8, earning All-American honors in the process. He also recorded victories at the Apple Ridge Run, the Sunfair Invitational, the Bellevue Invitational and the District 8 Championships.

An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Teeples has volunteered locally on behalf of the Benton County Canine Center and community road races. He has also participated in a service-mission trip to Uganda. "Isaac is a coach's dream," said Kamiakin High School coach Matt Rexus. "He has amazing ability and yet he works as hard, or harder, than any athlete I have ever coached. His goals are elite in every way."

Teeples has maintained a 3.53 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Brigham Young University 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 Teeples joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Wil Smith (2019-20, Lewis & Clark High School), Joe Waskom (2018-19, Mount Si High School), and James Mwaura (2017-18, Lincoln 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, Teeples 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. Teeples 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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