

**GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 30, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **David Sliwinski** of **Grace Christian School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Sliwinski is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Grace Christian 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 Sliwinski as Alaska'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, Sliwinski joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Parker Wolfe (2020-21, Cherry Creek High School, Greenwood Village, Colo.), Nico Young (2019-20, Newbury Park High School, Newbury Park, Calif.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.) and Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.).

The 5-foot-9, 125-pound senior raced to his second consecutive Division II individual state championship in a time of 15:55 this past season, the fastest clocking across all divisions. Sliwinski has led the Grizzlies to three state team titles. He also notched wins this season at the Wasilla Trailblazer Invitational, the Colony XC Invite and the Smokin' Stampede.

Sliwinski has volunteered locally with Operation Christmas Child, the Community Pregnancy Center and the annual Veteran's Day Reception. "David Sliwinski capped his decorated prep cross country career in distinguished fashion," said PrepCalTrack.com editor Rich Gonzalez. "Clocking the fastest all-divisions performance at the state meet, his performance capped a four-year dynasty which netted three official state team championships to go along with one unofficial team title during the Covid-19 pandemic."

Sliwinski has maintained a weighted 4.00 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Sliwinski joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Daniel Abramowicz (2021-22, West Valley High School), Tristian Merchant (2020-21 & 2019-20, Anchorage Christian School), and Daniel Bausch (2018-19, Chugiak High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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.