

**CATALINA FOOTHILLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA 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 **Brandon Martz** of **Catalina Foothills High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Martz is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Catalina Foothills 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 Martz as Arizona'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, Martz 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 6-foot, 142-pound senior raced to the Division II individual state championship this past season, clocking the fastest all-divisions time of 15:39.4 this past season. Unbeaten against in-state competition this fall, Martz also took second at the Desert Twilight XC Festival in a personal-best 15:10.10. He opened his 2022 campaign by crossing state lines to win the Division 1 individual championship at the venerable Mt. Carmel Invitational meet in California.

Martz has volunteered locally as a dietary aide at a nursing facility and as a lab researcher at the University of Arizona. Despite being diagnosed with exercise-induced asthma, he has prospered in the sport and elsewhere. "Brandon Martz stamped himself as a true big-meet performer this past season," noted PrepCalTrack.com editor Rich Gonzalez. "In addition to posting the fastest all-divisions time at the state meet, he recorded a major meet win at California's Mt. Carmel Invitational and earned second place at the prestigious Desert Twilight Festival."

Martz has maintained a weighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Rice 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.

Martz joins recent Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Terrence Keyes (2021-22, Gilbert High School), Dayton Carlson (2020-21, Casteel High School), and Leo Daschbach (2019-20 & 2018-19, Highland 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.