

**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 **Jonathan Drew of Middletown High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Drew is the first Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Middletown 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 Drew as Delaware'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, Drew 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-8, 130-pound senior won the Division 1 individual state championship in an all-divisions meet-best time of 16:06.2. Drew led the Cavaliers to a second-place team finish as a team. He also won two open invitational meets as well as the Blue Hen Conference and New Castle County Championship crowns.

He has volunteered locally as part of community service initiatives in association with the on-campus Athletic Leadership Committee, serving youth, the elderly and the military. "Jonathan Drew proved to be the driving force in Middletown's runner-up finish at the state championships as he won the Division 1 title to complete an unbeaten season in races held in Delaware," said PrepCalTrack.com editor Rich Gonzalez. "He's also paced the team to three consecutive Blue Hen Conference titles while earning the individual conference title the past two seasons."

Drew has maintained a weighted 3.09 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Delaware State 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.

Drew joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Ryan Banko (2021-22, Salesianum School), Declan McDonnell (2020-21, Tatnall School), Andrew Avila (2019-20, Charter School of Wilmington), and Connor Nisbet (2018-19, Wilmington Friends 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.