

**HAMPDEN ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 **Charlie Collins** of **Hampden Academy** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Maine Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Collins is the second Gatorade Maine Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Hampden Academy.

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 Collins as Maine'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, Collins 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, 150-pound senior raced to victory by nine seconds in the Class A State Championships this past season, clocking a 16:29.57 to pace the Broncos to the state team title. Collins won nine of 10 races he entered last fall. He broke the tape at the Maine XC Festival of Champions with a season-best time of 15:38.91.

Collins has volunteered locally with the Maine Special Olympics in addition to his duties as an altar server in his church. "Four years after arriving at Hampden Academy as an accomplished middle school talent, Charlie Collins transformed the program," said PrepCalTrack editor Rich Gonzalez. "By the time he was done, the Broncos were back-to-back state team champions and he'd won an individual crown. Collins broke course records at the Hampden and Saxl Park layouts last fall and also won the 678-runner Maine Festival of Champions meet."

Collins has maintained a 3.17 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Maine 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.

Collins joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Abbott Valentine (2021-22, Hampden Academy), Ben Greene (2020-21, Falmouth High School), and Lisandro Berry-Gaviria (2019-20 & 2018-19, Mount Ararat 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.