

**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 **Antonio Camacho-Bucks** of **Centennial High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Maryland Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Camacho-Bucks is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Camacho-Bucks as Maryland'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, Camacho-Bucks 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8, 122-pound senior raced to an impressive fourth-place finish in the Champs Sports Northeast Regional Championships this past season to qualify for nationals, where he finished 37th. Camacho-Bucks also won the Boys Easterns 2.5-mile race at the Manhattan College Invitational. He crossed the line fifth at the Class 3A state meet, pacing the Eagles to a third-place finish as a team.

Camacho-Bucks has volunteered locally as part of church community outreach projects. Also an Eagle Scout, he is a member of the school band. "Antonio Camacho-Bucks rode a pair of excellent performances on one of the nation's most revered layouts at VanCortlandt Park to prove himself as one the northeast region's premier talents," said PrepCalTrack editor Rich Gonzalez. "In mid-October, the Centennial High senior powered to a 12:17.5 clocking at the Manhattan College Invitational. His run at the Champs Sports Northeast Regionals was perhaps even more impressive."

Camacho-Bucks has maintained a weighted 3.75 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.

Two-time winner Camacho-Bucks joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Jake Gelfand (2020-21, Severna Park High School), Owen Johnson (2019-20, Calvert Hall College High School), and Obsaa Feda (2018-19, Northwood 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.