

**ROBBINSDALE ARMSTRONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 **Noah Breker** of **Robbinsdale Armstrong High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Breker is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Robbinsdale Armstrong 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 Breker as Minnesota'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, Breker 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 Player of the Year, the 6-foot-2, 145-pound senior overcame an injury heading into the state meet this past season to deliver a pair of All-American performances at both major national championship meets. He was the state's fastest performer at the Nike Cross Nationals, taking seventh overall, and the Champs Sports Nationals, finishing second. His fourth-place finish at Nike Heartland regionals came in a personal-best 14:51.0.

Also an accomplished nordic skier, Breker has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service projects on behalf of the Plymouth Covenant Church. "Achieving rare First Team All-America status twice this past season, Robbinsdale Armstrong's Noah Breker established himself among the nation's elite after a late-season injury nearly derailed his 2022 campaign," said PrepCalTrack editor Rich Gonzalez. "Noah regained form just in time for nationals to go along with his impressive in-season triumph at the popular Roy Griak Invitational."

Breker, who is homeschooled, has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Two-time winner Breker joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Ethan Vargas (2020-21, Stillwater Area High School), Nick Scheller (2019-20, Chanhassen High School), and Acer Iverson (2018-19, Roseville Area 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.