

**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 **Weston Brown** of **Bozeman High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Brown is the sixth Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Brown as Montana'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 January, Brown 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, 130-pound senior raced to All-America honors by placing eighth at the Nike Cross Nationals with a time of 14:56.4. Unbeaten by opponents in-state, Brown's debut season also included winning the Class AA individual state championship. He led the Hawks to a team title in the process.

He has volunteered as part of a service mission in Tanzania as well as locally at Eagle Mount, a community center for the intellectually and physically challenged. "Weston Brown is a clear rising star in our sport," said PrepCalTrack.com editor Rich Gonzalez. "Competing in his first year of cross country as a senior, his storybook progress was unrivaled in not only winning state individual and team championships, but then placing 8th at nationals against an absolutely stacked field of veteran runners. This level of dramatic, instant progress is unheard of."

Brown has maintained a weighted 4.10 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Tanner Klumph (2021-22, Sentinel High School), Stirling Marshall-Pryde (2020-21, Bozeman High School), Simon Hill (2019-20, Glacier High School), and Ben Perrin (2018-19, Flathead 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.