

**HARTINGTON-NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Carson Noecker** of **Hartington-Newcastle High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Noecker is the first Gatorade Nebraska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Hartington-Newcastle 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 Noecker as Nebraska'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, Noecker 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-10, 140-pound senior raced to victory in the Class C state meet this past season with a time of 14:58.3, a staggering 105 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor. Finishing unbeaten for the third straight year, Noecker won the Rated Varsity Race at the Woodbridge Classic in one of the fastest three-mile times (13:49.70) in national prep history. He also clocked a 5K PR of 14:51.0 in winning the UNK HS Invitational.

Noecker has volunteered extensively as part of community service initiatives on behalf of his church. "Carson Noecker turned in another standout campaign in the Cornhusker State," said PrepCalTrack editor and sport historian Rich Gonzalez. "His large margins of victory and his impressive win at Woodbridge in California make for a promising future."

Noecker has maintained a 3.35 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.

Noecker joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Gabe Hinrichs (2021-22, Elkhorn South High School), Liem Chot (2020-21 & 2019-20, North Star High School), and Ben Arens (2018-19, Ainsworth 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.

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