PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Byron Grevious** of **Phillips Exeter Academy** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Grevious is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Phillips Exeter 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 Grevious as New Hampshire'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, Grevious 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-7, 120-pound junior raced to victory at the NEPSTA Division 1 XC Championships this past season with a time of 15:35, pacing the Big Red to the team title. Grievous took second at the Nike Cross Northeast Regionals, clocking a 15:36.1 to qualify for nationals. He finished 12th at the national championships to take home All-America honors.

Grievous has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics as well as for a troubled-youth outreach program. "Grevious asserted himself on the biggest stage, placing 12th to earn Second Team All-America honors, clocking the second-fastest non-senior time in the field at the NXN Final," said PrepCalTrack editor Rich Gonzalez. "The possibilities for the fall of 2023 are ample, especially for a guy who's comfortably running sub-16 over 5K at his age."

Grevious has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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.

Grevious joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Aidan Cox (2021-22 & 2020-21, Coe-Brown Northwood Academy), Jake Velazquez (2019-20, Keene High School), and Forest MacKenzie (2018-19, Concord 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 studentathletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u>, Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u> and Twitter at <u>twitter.com/Gatorade</u>.