

**MONROE-WOODBURY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 **Collin Gilstrap** of **Monroe-Woodbury High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Gilstrap is the first Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Monroe-Woodbury 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 Gilstrap as New York'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, Gilstrap 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 6-foot, 130-pound senior raced to a 19th-place finish at Nike Cross Nationals in Portland in a time of 15:21 to earn All-America status. Gilstrap, also the New York Federations meet champion, led the Crusaders to a second-place team finish at the Class A state meet.

Gilstrap has volunteered his time as a guest reader at his local elementary school as well as serving as coach to the YMCA chess club and local youth sports teams. "Competing against a stacked field, senior Collin Gilstrap closed out his prep cross country career in grand fashion with a 19th-place finish at Nike Cross National, earning Third Team All-America accolades," said PrepCalTrack editor Rich Gonzalez. "The New York Federations Championship meet winner, Gilstrap also won his race at the popular mid-season Manhattan College Invitational."

Gilstrap has maintained a weighted 3.78 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Stony Brook University 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.

Gilstrap joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Gitch Hayes (2021-22, La Salle Institute), Peyton Geehrer (2020-21, Fayetteville-Manlius High School), Sam Lawler (2019-20, Mendon High School), and Parker Stokes (2018-19, Maine-Endwell 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.