

**ST. RAPHAEL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Devan Kipyego** of **St. Raphael High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Kipyego is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Raphael 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 Kipyego as Rhode Island'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, Kipyego 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 Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8, 130-pound senior raced to the state championship this past season with a time of 15:39.3, pacing the Saints to fourth place as a team. Kipyego followed up by winning the New England title. He also broke the tape at the Nike Cross Northast Regionals to qualify for nationals, where he finished 15th to earn All-America status.

Kipyego has volunteered locally with his church as part of multiple community service initiatives. "Devan Kipyego continues to own the state in 2022 and deservedly racked up his second straight Gatorade Player of the Year award," said PrepCalTrack editor Rich Gonzalez. "He produced an unbeaten campaign within state lines and also won the Boys Easterns 2.5-mile race at the Manhattan Invitational prior to his top-15 finish at nationals. A two-time state cross country champion and nine-time indoor/outdoor track and field champion, Devan has established himself among the leading talents across the national landscape."

Kipyego has maintained a weighted 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Iowa State 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.

Two-time winner Kipyego joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Jack McLoughlin (2020-21 & 2019-20, La Salle Academy) and Jack McMahon (2018-19, Bishop Hendricken 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.