

**HURRICANE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Ty Steorts** of **Hurricane High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Steorts is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Hurricane 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 Steorts as West Virginia'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, Steorts 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-11, 125-pound sophomore raced to victory at the Class AAA state this past season, pacing the Redskins to a second place finish as a team. Steorts won four invitationals last fall and was the state's top performer at the adidas XC Challenge in North Carolina, where he took second overall. He capped his 2022 campaign as the fastest West Virginian at the Garmin RunningLane Championships in Alabama, crossing the line fifth.

Steorts has volunteered locally packing boxes for the Backpack Buddies program and preparing meals for the Ronald McDonald House. "Completing a dream season that included a top-5 finish at a national meet, Hurricane's sophomore also clocked the fastest all-class time at the state meet," said PrepCalTrack editor Rich Gonzalez. "His run at the adidas Challenge was another example of what projects as exciting things to come."

Steorts has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his junior year of high school 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.

Steorts joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Josh Edwards (2021-22, 2020-21, & 2019-20, University High School) and Aaron Withrow (2018-19, Winfield 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.

###