

**GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 26, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Robbie Annett** of **Grace Christian School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Annett is the third Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Grace Christian School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Annett as Alaska's best high school boys cross country player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11 & 2009-10, Carl Sandburg High School, Ill.) and Edward Cheserek (2012-13, St. Benedict's Preparatory School, N.J.).

The 6-foot-1, 145-pound junior won the Division 2 state meet this past season with a time of 16:39.06, breaking the tape 3.18 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Grizzlies to the team title. Annett won 10 of the 11 races he entered and was named the state's Division 2 Most Valuable Runner. He also won two individual state titles last spring for the Grace Christian track and field team and was a member of the school's state championship basketball team last winter.

Annett has volunteered locally at the Downtown Hope Center in Anchorage and as a youth basketball coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. "Robbie set the standard for effort level during every practice," said Tara Edwards, head coach of Grace Christian School. "He has obviously contributed to the team through his top performances, but even more importantly, he has made significant contributions through his natural leadership."

Annett has maintained a 3.04 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior 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.

Annett joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Players of the Year David Sliwinski (2022-23, Grace Christian School), Daniel Abramowicz (2021-22, West Valley High School) and Tristian Merchant (2020-21 & 2019-20, Anchorage Christian School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit [playeroftheyear.gatorade.com](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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