

**RENO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 26, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Eric Ortega-Gammill** of **Reno High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Ortega-Gammill is the second Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Reno High 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 Ortega-Gammill as Nevada’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-3, 160-pound senior raced to seventh place at the talent-stacked Clovis Invitational this past season in a time of 15:38.6. Ortega-Gammill was also the top Nevada finisher at the Woodbridge Classic and the prestigious Bob Firman Invitational. A four-time Academic All-State honoree, he broke the tape at the Class 5A state meet in an all-class best clocking of 16:31.0, earning All-State recognition for a third consecutive year.

An accomplished classical pianist, Ortega-Gammill has volunteered locally on behalf of MyKeys Studio, playing the instrument for younger students and providing feedback on their own recitals. He also has donated his time to the Junior Silver State Striders, a running group for ages 6 to 18. “Eric Ortega-Gammill churned out highly impressive consistency on a variety of championship-level courses to emerge as one of the premier talents from the Silver State in recent memory,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “Crossing state lines six times this season in search of top competition, the talented senior shined brightest at the Clovis Invitational in California and the Bob Firman Invitational in Idaho, two of the top meets in the country.”

Ortega-Gammill has maintained a 4.60 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Santa Clara 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.

Ortega-Gammill joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Logan Scott (2022-23, Faith Lutheran High School), Kutoven Stevens (2021-22, Yerington High School), Preston Humes (2020-21, Moapa Valley High School) and Christian Franklin (2019-20, Valley High 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 or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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