

**DEER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Brody Woodcock** of **Deer Creek High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Woodcock is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Deer Creek 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 Woodcock as Oklahoma’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 5-foot-11, 135-pound senior raced to 22nd place at the Nike Cross South Regional Championships this past season, clocking a time of 15:26.4. That performance led Deer Creek to a fourth-place finish as a team, the best NXR showing in history by a Sooner State squad. Woodcock was also the top Oklahoma competitor at the RunningLane Championships, where he took 35th. He paced the Antlers to the Class 6A state team title, crossing the line third to capture bronze.

Woodcock has volunteered locally as a counselor for the DCXC youth distance-running training camp. He has also donated his time at the Wings community pumpkin patch, which benefits those with special needs. “Brody Woodcock not only achieved individual excellence but also the team success he longed for in 2023,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “A highlight among his many accomplishments was a personal-best clocking of 15:15.70 to take fifth at the Marcus Coach T Invitational.”

Woodcock has maintained a 4.09 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Tulsa 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.

Woodcock joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Andrew Smithwick (2022-23, Lincoln Christian High School), A.J. Antonelli (2021-22, Deer Creek High School) and Gabe Simonsen (2020-21 & 2019-20, Mustang 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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