

**BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Porter Hurteau** of **Bellows Free Academy** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Hurteau is the first Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Bellows Free Academy.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Hurteau as Vermont’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-9, 145-pound senior won the state Meet of Champions this past season, clocking a personal-best time of 15:57.30 and leading the Bobwhites to third place as a team. Hurteau took 30th at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional Championships after posting a second successive runner-up finish at the Division I state meet, where he lifted Bellows Free to the team title. He also recorded a Top 25 finish at the New England XC Championships.

A member of the National Honor Society chapter, Hurteau serves on his school’s Student Voice Committee and Athletic Council. He has volunteered locally at a youth center as both a participant and leader in activities and fundraising events. He has also donated his time as an assistant coach for middle school soccer and track and field programs. “Porter Hurteau navigated the Northeast with admirable consistency during the fall while leading his team to a state championship season,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “His selfless desire and ability to pace his teammates led to a lot of hardware for the Bobwhites.”

Hurteau has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Hurteau joins recent Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Matthew Servin (2022-23, Champlain Valley Union High School), Evan Thornton-Sherman (2021-22, St. Johnsbury Academy), Brady Martisus (2020-21, Essex High School) and Henry Farrington (2019-20, Essex 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](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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