

**WINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Brayden Marshall** of **Winfield High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Marshall is the second Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Winfield 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 Marshall as West Virginia’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-10, 140-pound senior won the Class AA state title by a commanding 45 seconds this past season, clocking a time of 15:29.62 and leading the Generals to the team championship. Marshall broke a pair of course records during the regular season and his fifth-place finish at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships—earning him First Team All-American status—was the best in history by a West Virginia runner on the San Diego course. He also took sixth in the Race of Champions at the Great American Cross Country Festival.

A member of his school’s DECA chapter, Marshall has volunteered locally organizing a shoveling and food-donation collection event where driveways are shoveled in exchange for canned goods that were donated to the community cupboard. He has also donated his time preparing meals for the Ronald McDonald House. “It was a star-studded senior season for Brayden Marshall, who repeatedly stamped himself as a major player from the South,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “He saved his best for last, powering to fifth at nationals in capping a remarkably consistent campaign in spite of completing one of the more challenging racing schedules in the nation.”

Marshall has maintained a 4.28 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at North Carolina State 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.

Marshall joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Ty Steorts (2022-23, Hurricane High School) and Josh Edwards (2021-22, 2020-21 & 2019-20, University 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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