

## **HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (February 13, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Eric Moore** of **Huntsville High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alabama Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Moore is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Huntsville High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Moore as Alabama's best high school boys cross country athlete, and he joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Lukas Verzbicas (2009-10 & 2010-11, Carl Sandburg High School, Illinois), Edward Cheserek (2012-13, St. Benedict's Preparatory School, New Jersey) and Daniel Simmons (2022-23 & 2023-24, American Fork High School, Utah).

The 5-foot-8, 120-pound senior won the AHSAA Class 7A state meet this past season with a time of 14:52.81, leading the Panthers to the team title. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Moore was the state's top finisher at both the Great American XC Festival (6th) and the NXN Southeast Regional (7th). He clocked a 5K personal best of 14:41.57 last fall in winning the Dew It On The Trails Invitational.

A member of the National Honor Society, Moore has volunteered locally at First Baptist Church by assembling Sunday School bags in association with its youth group and serving as part of set-up and clean-up crews at various church functions. He has also donated his time with the Huntsville Track Club as an assistant at community road races. "Eric Moore experienced a dream senior campaign, not only winning the Class 7A state title with the fourth-fastest time in state meet history, but also leading his Huntsville squad to the fastest cumulative team clocking in state meet history," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "He was the state's top performer in the biggest meets on the calendar."

Moore has maintained a weighted 4.04 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of Virginia this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states across 12 different high school sports - 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.

Moore joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Ethan Edgeworth (2023-24, Cold Springs High School), Maxwell Hardin (2022-23, Auburn High School), Miles Brush (2021-22, Chelsea High School) and Ethan Strand (2020-21, Vestavia Hills 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).