

**GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 13, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Robbie Annett** of **Grace Christian School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Annett is the third Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Grace Christian 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 Annett as Alaska'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 state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1, 145-pound senior won his second straight Division 2 state meet this past season with a time of 16:14.8, breaking the tape 6.8 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Grizzlies to a repeat as team champions. A two-time State Runner of the Year winner, Annett was undefeated this fall against in-state competition. He clocked a 5K personal-best of 15:28.97 last fall in winning the Region 3 XC Championships.

Annett has volunteered locally at the Downtown Hope Center in Anchorage and as a youth basketball coach. He has also donated his time to multiple community service initiatives through his church youth group. “Robbie is an awesome kid and a fierce competitor,” said Bob Ostrom, head coach of Homer High School. “He’s so strong because of his focus on excellence for himself and his team.”

Annett has maintained a weighted 3.21 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 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.

Two-time winner Annett joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Players of the Year David Sliwinski (2022-23, Grace Christian School), Daniel Abramowicz (2021-22, West Valley High School) and Tristian Merchant (2020-21, Anchorage Christian 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 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.