

**DANA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 **Evan Noonan** of **Dana Hills High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Noonan is the first Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Dana Hills 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 Noonan as California'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, 170-pound senior won his second straight CIF Division III state meet this past season with a 5K personal-best time of 14:43.7, breaking the tape 8.2 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Dolphins to 14th place as a team. A three-time state champion and also the 2024 CIF Southern Section winner, Noonan took fifth at national NXN Final in 15:32.70 to earn First Team All-American honors. He won four of seven starts last fall.

An accomplished guitarist and drummer who performs as part of various live concerts, Noonan has volunteered locally at Mercy Warehouse by acquiring and delivering donations of furniture, food and clothing to a charity helping families in need. He has also donated his time with Miracles For Kids, soliciting donations of food, clothing and financial aid from the neighborhood to assist families with children diagnosed with significant illnesses. "Overcoming a pair of high-profile regular-season racing setbacks due to a diagnosed mineral imbalance, Evan Noonan returned with a vengeance in time for postseason," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Becoming only the fifth three-time boys champion in state meet history, the decorated senior capped his prep career with a First Team All-American performance at NXN."

Noonan has maintained a weighted 3.97 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Stanford 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 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 Noonan joins recent Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Leo Young (2022-23, Newbury Park High School) and Colin Sahlman (2021-22 & 2020-21, Newbury Park 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 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.

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