

**FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Juan Gonzalez** of **Fremont High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Nebraska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Gonzalez is the third Gatorade Nebraska Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Fremont 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 Gonzalez as Nebraska'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 5-foot-8, 135-pound senior raced to his third straight Class A state title this past season, clocking a meet-record time of 14:52.1 and leading the Tigers to their third team title in four years. Gonzalez was undefeated last fall against in-state competition. He clocked a 5K seasonal-best of 14:34.3 last fall in winning the NXN Heartland Regional and, coupled with his victory at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional, became one of only two runners nationally to win two regional championships. He capped his season by taking silver at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships just a week after an impressive 13th-place showing at the national NXN Final.

Gonzalez has volunteered locally co-organizing the upkeep of Wildwood Park, a forested, 37-acre expanse near the Platte River designed for recreational activity. He has also donated his time as an assistant youth coach for the Fremont Track Club. “While his postseason accomplishments clearly affirm him as one of the nation’s top talents, it’s Gonzalez’s focus on team initiatives and his vested interest in the individual progress of his teammates that led the program to a dominant yet surprising state championship—their third title in four years,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “He’s an exceptional leader who checks all of the boxes.”

Gonzalez has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of Oregon 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 Gonzalez joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Carson Noecker (2022-23, Hartington-Newcastle High School), Gabe Hinrichs (2021-22, Elkhorn South High School) and Liem Chot (2020-21, North Star 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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