

## **DESERT OASIS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Kenan Dagge** of **Desert Oasis High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Dagge is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Desert Oasis 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 Dagge as Nevada'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 6-foot-1, 140-pound senior won the NIAA Class 5A state meet this past season with a time of 15:28.3, breaking the tape 27.1 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Diamondbacks to third place as a team. Dagge clocked a 5K personal-best of 14:58.1 last fall—the state’s fastest clocking of 2024—in winning the Larry Burgess Invitational. He capped his prep distance career by taking 23<sup>rd</sup> at the NXN Southwest Regional in Arizona, missing All-Region status by less than two seconds.

A member of the National Honor Society, Dagge has volunteered locally assisting in services at Debre Mehret St. Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Church. He has also donated his time organizing youth group community runs. “Whenever the best distance runners in the Silver State converged, Kenan Dagge always seemed to mine gold,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “He posted impressive regular-season wins at in-state invitationals and produced an excellent showing against top competition across state lines.”

Dagge has maintained a weighted 4.35 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Georgetown 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.

Dagge joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Eric Ortega-Gammill (2023-24, Reno High School), Logan Scott (2022-23, Faith Lutheran High School), Kutoven Stevens (2021-22, Yerington High School) and Preston Humes (2020-21, Moapa Valley 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).