

**BISHOP GUERTIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Matthew Giardina** of **Bishop Guertin High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Giardina is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Guertin 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 Giardina as New Hampshire'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-4, 106-pound senior raced to seventh place at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships this past season, clocking a 15:44.10 to earn Second Team All-American recognition. Giardina was First Team All-Region at both the Foot Locker Northeast Regional, where he took fourth, and the NXN Northeast Regional, where he finished seventh. He also broke the tape at the NHIAA Meet of Champions with a personal-best time of 14:58.50. Ranked No. 20 in the national MileSplit 50 last fall, he crossed the line second at the state Division 1 meet and took sixth at the 89th New England XC Championships.

Giardina is a member of his school’s campus ministry program and also serves as a student ambassador. An altar boy for his church, he has volunteered locally by helping the homeless community and he has donated his time as an elementary school cross country coach. In addition, he works as a chicken farmer and performs construction masonry during his time away from training. “Matt Giardina won New Hampshire’s Meet of Champions and qualified for both elite national championships, running impressively at both,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “Let’s face it, there was only one All-American from the Granite State last fall and it was him. He was one of the nation’s best in 2024.”

Giardina has maintained a 3.33 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of New Mexico 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.

Giardina joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Byron Grevious (2023-24 & 2022-23, Phillips Exeter Academy) and Aidan Cox (2021-22 & 2020-21, Coe-Brown Northwood Academy), 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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