

**TIPPECANOE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Landon Kimmel** of **Tippecanoe High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Kimmel is the second Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Tippecanoe 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 Kimmel as Ohio'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-7, 125-pound junior broke the tape at the Division 1 state meet this past season, clocking a 5K personal-best time of 14:33.81—a state meet record and the third-fastest 5K in state prep history. Kimmel went on to earn First Team All-Region honors at the NXN Midwest Regional, where he took fourth in 14:52.91. Ranked No. 53 in the national Dyestat 100 last fall, he crossed the line 31st at the national NXN Final. He also set course records at districts and regionals.

The video editor for the YouTube channel “Red Devil Running,” Kimmel has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group. He has also donated his time to a youth running club. “Kimmel closed his season better than anyone else in Ohio,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “The pace of his state title run and his excellent finish at nationals bode well for his senior campaign.”

Kimmel has maintained a weighted 4.26 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Kimmel joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Andrew Walton (2023-24, Fairfield Union High School), Connor Ackley (2022-23, Hilliard Davidson High School), William Zegarski (2021-22, Little Miami High School) and Nathan Moore (2020-21, Lake 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.