

## **STAR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING 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 **Jase Burton** of **Star Valley High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Player of the Year**. Burton is the fourth Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Star Valley 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 Burton as Wyoming'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-10, 130-pound senior took second at the NXN Northwest Regional in a 5K personal-best time of 14:55.30 this past season before racing to 17th at the national NXN Final, where he earned Third Team All-American honors. Burton also broke the tape at the Class 4A state meet, leading the Braves to the state team title. A three-time All-State selection, he was Wyoming's top finisher at Idaho's Bob Firman Invitational (6th) and Washington's Nike Hole In the Wall Invitational (7th).

Burton has served as class president in each year of high school and is a leader in his church youth group. He has also donated his time on behalf of an elementary school program promoting friendly competition and a healthy lifestyle. "Burton was essentially unchallenged as Wyoming's best last fall," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "When you're among the top two dozen high school distance runners in the country, you're worthy of any award you get."

Burton has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is ranked No. 1 in his class. He remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Burton joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Boys Cross Country Players of the Year Habtamu Wetzel (2023-24, Star Valley High School), Owen Burnett (2022-23, Mountain View High School), Mason Wheeler (2021-22, Jackson Hole High School) and Peter Visser (2020-21, Star 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).