

## **PADUA ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 21, 2026) — In its 41<sup>st</sup> year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Anna Bockius of Padua Academy is the 2025-26 Gatorade Delaware Girls Cross Country Player of the Year.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their excellence in sport, academics and community. The award recognizes Bockius as Delaware's best high school girls cross country athlete, and she joins an elite legacy that spans professional athletes and coaches to CEOs, such as Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, CA), Katelyn Tuohy (2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20, North Rockland High School, NY) and Jane Hedengren (2024-25, Timpview High School, UT).

The 5-foot-8 senior won the Division 1 state meet this past season with a time of 17:34.4, breaking the tape 51.8 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Pandas to the team title. Bockius also earned Second Team All-Region honors by taking ninth at the Nike Cross Southeast Regional Championships and finished the 2025 campaign undefeated against in-state competition. The 2024-25 Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Player of the Year, she ran the second-fastest 5K time in state history at the New Castle County Championships, clocking a personal-best 17:00.4.

A Padua Academy student ambassador, Bockius is a member of her school's National Honor Society, Debate Club and Culture Crew. She has volunteered locally as a peer tutor. "Anna is humble, gracious and self-driven to be the best," said Pat Castagno, head coach of The Tatnall School. "Her competitive mentality has elevated her to be one of the finest runners in Delaware history."

Bockius has maintained a weighted 4.08 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of Notre Dame this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one state winner from each of the 50 states and Washington D.C., in 12 different sports: football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, and boys and girls track & field. In total, 610 high school athletes are honored each year. From the pool of state winners, one national winner is selected in each of the 12 sports. 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 winners in each sport.

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 \$6.4 million in grants to winners across more than 2,200 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](https://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at [x.com/Gatorade](https://x.com/Gatorade).

###