

**RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE  
FLORIDA 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 Madison Muller of Riverview High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Florida 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 Muller as Florida'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-7 sophomore won the FHSAA Class 4A state meet this past season in a time of 17:37.7 to finish 22.6 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor in leading the Rams to a ninth-place team finish. She broke the tape at the Region 3 postseason meet with a time of 16:50.4, the state's fastest 5K time of 2025.

Also a First Team All-Area performer in lacrosse, Muller has volunteered locally at the All Faiths Food Bank in Sarasota, packaging food for locals in need. A member of the Rho Kappa Honor Society and the local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she also has donated her time performing various tasks at Sarasota County Libraries. "Madison Muller simply owned the last five races of the season to establish her superiority in the clutch," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Unbeaten against in-state competition during that stretch, the sophomore sensation not only captured her first Class 4A state championship, she set the pace in leading all Florida competitors at the premier national postseason meet, including a runner-up finish at the Brooks South Championships. She's a fast-rising star in the sport."

Muller has maintained a weighted 4.80 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school 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](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).

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