

MOANALUA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE HAWAII GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 21, 2026) — In its 41st year celebrating the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Sadie Krueger of Moanalua High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Hawaii 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 Krueger as Hawaii'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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-6 sophomore won the state meet this past season with a time of 18:03, breaking the tape 36 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Na Menehune to a seventh-place finish as a team. Krueger, who missed the first month of the season with an injury to her IT band, earned First Team All-Region honors by taking sixth at the Brooks West Regional Championships, qualifying for the Brooks Cross Country Championships for a second straight year. She finished 31st at nationals.

Krueger has volunteered locally in the concession stand at Moanalua High School football games and as a marshal at middle school cross country meets. "Sadie has been one of the most mature runners I've coached," said David Matsumoto, head coach of Moanalua High School. "She's laser focused on what it takes to improve and be there for her team. The way she came back from injury was amazing."

Krueger has maintained a 3.93 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 or follow us on social media on Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade, Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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