

## THE LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Blair Bartlett of The Lawrenceville School is the 2025-26 Gatorade New Jersey 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 Bartlett as New Jersey'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-3 junior took second at each of the two premier national championship meets last month—the Nike Cross Nationals and the Brooks XC Championships—with times of 16:51.7 and 16:57.1, respectively. Bartlett crossed the line 1.6 seconds away from a national title in both races. She won the NJISAA Prep Class A state title this past season, leading the Big Red to a runner-up team finish. She was also the top American finisher in the U20 World Cross Country Championships earlier this month, placing 16th.

Bartlett fulfills a number of duties in the realm of climate science, serving on her school's Sustainability Council and as a council member with the Climate Action Club. She's also an Executive Board Member of the National High School Climate Forum. Bartlett has donated her time in an outdoor leadership capacity as a ropes course instructor and by fundraising eight consecutive years for Swim Across America to support cancer treatment and palliative care. Also a member of the Lawrenceville School Hutchins Scholars in Science and Math, she has volunteered locally by co-leading a Lawrenceville Community Action Project, which helped middle and elementary school students learn to play tennis. "A newcomer to the sport last fall Blair Bartlett quickly rose to become a generational talent," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Even sickness the week of Nike Cross Nationals did not deter her from traveling across the country to race to a runner-up finish—the best showing in history by a New Jersey girl. Days later, a third trip across the country in eight days netted the same result at Brooks nationals. The cherry on top was her finish as the top American at the World U20 Championships. This 'rookie' is the real deal."

Bartlett has maintained a 4.11 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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://www.x.com/Gatorade).

###