

## **LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 Ellery Lincoln of Lincoln High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Oregon 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 Lincoln as Oregon'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-4 junior set a new meet record at the OSAA Class 6A state meet this past season, clocking a time of 17:11.0 to finish 13.6 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Cardinals to the team title. Lincoln also ran a personal-best 5K in 16:28.5 at the Mook Invite last fall. Her seventh-place showing at the NXN Northwest Regional Championships earned her First Team All-Region honors.

Lincoln has volunteered locally with CDH Awareness, which educates the public about Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia, a severe birth defect. She has also donated her time supporting various running events, including the Holiday Half, a half-marathon in Portland, the Lady Bug Run and a race along the Tualatin River. "Continuing to battle a chronic respiratory condition which first surfaced her sophomore season, Ellery Lincoln still finds a way to rise to the top," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "After her 6A meet record last fall, there seems to be a lot in store for her senior season."

Lincoln has maintained a 4.0 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).

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