

**BRASWELL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Macy Wingard of Braswell High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Texas 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 Wingard as Texas' 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 senior won her third straight UIL Class 6A state meet this past season with a time of 16:45.7, breaking the tape 23.9 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor. A three-time All-American in her prep career, Wingard placed eighth at Nike Cross Nationals to earn Second Team All-America honors. She won the Nike Cross South Regional title, part of the pristine ledger she posted against in-state runners.

A gold medalist at the JiuJitsu World League in 2022, Wingard has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives. She has also donated her time passing out food to the needy through her church on a weekly basis and volunteers at the church food pantry every Thanksgiving. "There have been a litany of distance-running greats to come through Texas, but none one three Class 6A state championships," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Unbeaten against Lone Star State runners throughout the season, Macy Wingard put the pedal to the metal, and the rest couldn't keep pace."

Wingard has maintained a weighted 4.78 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at Brigham Young University 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.

###