

## **HERBERT HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Maysen Fletcher of Herbert Hoover High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade West Virginia 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 Fletcher as West Virginia'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 sophomore scorched her way through the postseason last fall, winning the Brooks South XC Championships with a time of 17:02.9 to earn First Team All-Region honors and advance to nationals, where she finished 21st. Also the Class 3A state champion this past season, Fletcher received Second Team All-Region recognition with an 11th-place finish at the NXN Southeast Regional. The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, she clocked a personal-best 16:53.3 at the prestigious Great American XC Festival, where she took fourth. She finished the year ranked No. 46 in the national DyeStat 100.

Fletcher has volunteered locally on behalf of the West Virginia Special Olympics, the Charleston Humane Society and the Quick Community Center. She has also donated her time as a meet assistant and race committee member for the Leah's Legacy 5K. "Maysen Fletcher went unbeaten against in-state competitors and repeated as state champion last fall," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Her 16:43.3 at Great American demonstrates national-elite turnover and portends great things for her junior year in distance-running circles."

Fletcher has maintained a weighted 4.54 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](https://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).

###