

HOMEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 22, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Emma Brooke Levering of Homewood High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade Alabama Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Levering is the second Gatorade Alabama Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Homewood High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Levering as Alabama’s best high school girls cross country player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Irene Riggs (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Morgantown High School, Morgantown, W. Va.), Katelyn Tuohy (2019-20, 2018-19 & 2017-18, North Rockland High School, Thiels, N.Y.) and Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.)

The 5-foot-2 junior won the Class 6A state meet this past season with a time of 17:46.27, breaking the tape more than eight seconds faster than any other class winner and leading the Patriots to a third-place finish as a team. A four-time All-State selection, Levering also won the Spain Park Invitational and placed 49th at the RunningLane Championships. She crossed the line in 56th at the Foot Locker South Regional.

A tenor saxophone in the Homewood Patriot Marching Band, Levering has volunteered locally with Peer Helpers, which promotes safe and healthy drug and alcohol prevention, and with Best Buddies, mentoring special needs students. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. “Continuing her storybook career, Homewood High School junior Emma Brooke Levering rose to new levels during the postseason,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “The Class 6A state champion, she not only had the fastest time among all classes at the state meet, but then shined as the state’s top finisher at both the Foot Locker South and RunningLane Championships meets. No runner from The Heart of Dixie enjoyed more success during the fall season.”

Levering has maintained a 4.18 weighted 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 winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. 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 state winners in each sport.

Levering joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Reagan Riley (2022-23, Mountain Brook High School), Crawford West (2021-20 & 2020-21, Vestavia Hills High School), and Lainey Phelps (2019-20, Homewood High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

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, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 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 Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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