

SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE IDAHO GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (January 22, 2024) — In its 39<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Nelah Roberts of Skyline High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Roberts is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyline 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 Roberts as Idaho'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-7 senior won the Class 4A state title this past season, breaking the tape in an all-class best 17:18.06 to win by almost two minutes and leading the Grizzlies to a third-place finish as a team. Also the state's 2021-22 Gatorade Player of the Year, Roberts followed that up by taking 16th at the Nike Cross Nationals Final to earn Third Team All-America honors. In qualifying for nationals, she finished fourth at the NXN Northwest Regional as the top Idaho prep girl.

A devoted parishioner of her church community, Roberts has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army and the Young Womanhood Recognition program, which fosters an environment of skills development and service for and to peers. "Nelah Roberts became the first four-time individual champion in state meet history and earned All-America honors at Nike Cross Nationals," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "The Brigham Young University commit delivered true dominance at the state meet, posting the fastest time of the meet by a whopping 48 seconds across all five classes."

Roberts has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to run on scholarship at Brigham Young University 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.

Two-time winner Roberts joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Anastasia Peters (2022-23, Post Falls High School), Sammy Smith (2020-21, Boise High School), and Mattie Geddes (2019-20, Twin Falls 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).

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