

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE VERMONT 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 Charlotte Crum of Champlain Valley Union High School is the 2025-26 Gatorade Vermont 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 Crum as Vermont'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 senior won the Division 1 state meet this past season with a time of 19:15.2, breaking the tape 13.4 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the RedHawks to the team title. Crum was also the top Vermont finisher at the New England Cross Country Championships, where she crossed the line in eighth place. Her top-25 finish at the Nike Cross Northeast Regional Championships and her run at Nike Cross Nationals helped CVU take second and 14th place, respectively, as a team.

Crum is the club leader for a women's empowerment group called Together We Rise and a member of her school's Environmental Action Club and Amnesty International chapter. She has volunteered locally at community road races and working with special needs children at Zeno Mountain Farm in Lincoln. "Charlotte works incredibly hard and is the most consistent runner I've worked with over the past three years," said Dave Baird, head coach of Champlain Valley Union High School. "She is extremely focused and disciplined once a race starts, and she always finds a way to be at her best in the biggest moments."

Crum has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Bates College this fall, where she will run for the cross country and track teams.

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.

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