

**WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 28, 2019) — In its 34th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Claire Wigglesworth of Woodrow Wilson High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Wigglesworth is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Woodrow Wilson High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the racecourse, distinguishes Wigglesworth as District of Columbia's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in February, Wigglesworth joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg High School, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley High School, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-6 junior broke the tape at the D.C. Interscholastic Athletic Association championships this past season with a time of 20:00.52. Wigglesworth also won the Lafayette Invitational. She placed fourth at the D.C. State Athletic Association Championships, fourth at the Great American Cross Country Festival (Varsity Blue division) and sixth at the Pacers Running DCXC Invitational.

A member of her school's Best Buddies Club, Wigglesworth has volunteered locally feeding the homeless. "Claire was just an outstanding addition to the cross country team this year," said Woodrow Wilson coach Emily Farrar. "She worked very hard to balance running and [being a member of the crew team] during the fall. She's a naturally talented runner and she's always so positive and so encouraging."

Wigglesworth has maintained a weighted 4.25 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 work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Wigglesworth joins Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Page Lester (2017-18 & 2016-17, National Cathedral School), Taylor Knibb (2015-16 & 2014-15, Sidwell Friends School), and Megan Wilson (2013-14, Sidwell Friends School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Wigglesworth has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. She is also eligible to submit an essay to win one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants for the organization of choice, which will be announced throughout the year.

Since the program's inception in 1985, Gatorade Player of the Year award recipients have won hundreds of professional and college championships, and many have also turned into pillars in their communities, becoming coaches, business owners and educators.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit www.Gatorade.com/POY, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.