

TWIN FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO 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 Mattie Geddes of Twin Falls High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Geddes is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Twin Falls 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 Geddes as Idaho'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, Geddes 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-5 junior won the Class 4A state meet for a second straight year this past season with a time of 17:29.49, breaking the tape 24.87 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Bruins to a third-place finish as a team. Geddes also finished fifth at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships and then earned All-American honors by taking ninth at the NXN Final. She won nine of 12 races and lost only once to an in-state opponent this past fall.

Geddes has volunteered locally as a youth running coach, and has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "Mattie is a great runner," said Sean Schmidt, head coach of Skyline High. "She is able to hold a fast pace throughout the race and in the last 1,000 meters she is able to pick up the pace."

Geddes has maintained a 4.0 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.

Geddes joins Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Lexy Halladay (2017-18 & 2016-17, Mountain View High School), Rachel Morrin (2015-16, Madison High School), Emily Hamlin (2014-15, Boise High School), and Sam McKinnon (2013-14, Mountain View High 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," Geddes 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.