

RANDOLPH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Abby Loveys of Randolph High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Loveys is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Randolph 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 Loveys as New Jersey'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, Loveys 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 senior raced to victory at the state Meet of Champions this past season with a time of 17:54. Loveys also took fourth at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships and finished 11th nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, earning All-American honors. In addition, she broke the tape at the Group 4 state championship in 17:52, the prestigious Manhattan Invitational, the Six Flags Wild Safari Invitational, the Morris County championships and the Sectional championships.

A devoted member of her church community, Loveys has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen, homeless shelters and youth track clinics. "Abby had one of the best seasons ever by a New Jersey runner," said Randolph co-coach Kevin Higgins. "There are probably some kids with more natural ability, but she's very focused, mentally tough and she's the last to leave practice every day. It was really gratifying to see it all come together for her."

Loveys has maintained a weighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Princeton University this fall, where she will compete in cross country and track and field.

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.

Loveys joins Gatorade New Jersey Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Monica Hebner (2017-18, Northern Highlands Regional High School), Alyssa Aldridge (2016-17 & 2015-16, Mainland Regional High School), Eve Glasergreen (2014-15, North Hunterdon High School), and Briana Gess (2013-14, Haddonfield Memorial 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," Loveys 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.

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