

**BEAVERCREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OHIO GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 28, 2019) — In its 34<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Taylor Ewert of Beaver Creek High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Ewert is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Beaver Creek 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 Ewert as Ohio'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, Ewert 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-10 junior earned dual All-American honors this past season by finishing third at the Nike Cross Nationals Final and fourth at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships. Ewert also won the Division I state meet with a time of 17:38.7, breaking the tape 25.8 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Beavers to a first-place finish as a team. In addition, she captured the Greater Western Ohio Conference Championship in 16:57.90, only the third Ohio girls runner in history to break 17 minutes in a five-kilometer race.

A talented artist, Ewert has volunteered locally as a teacher's assistant at Beaver Creek High, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Taylor dominated every race I watched her," said Kevin Alexander, head coach of Troy High. "No one ever dared go out with her at the state meet as she led from wire-to-wire."

Ewert has maintained a weighted 3.52 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.

Ewert joins Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Morgan Gigandet (2017-18, Troy High School), India Johnson (2016-17, Hilliard Davidson High School), Abby Nichols (2015-16, Alter High School), Dominique Clairmonte (2014-15, Lexington High School), and Annie Heffernan (2013-14, St. Ursula Academy) 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," Ewert 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](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](http://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](http://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).