

**SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Fiona Max of Summit High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Max is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Summit 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 Max as Oregon'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, Max 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-8 junior raced to the Class 6A state championship this past season with a time of 17:29, leading the Storm to the state title as a team. Max placed sixth at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships and finished 11th at the NXN Final, earning All-American honors and leading Summit to the team national championship. She also finished first at the Oxford Classic and the Northwest Classic.

Also a Nordic skiing standout, Max contributes to her school's award-winning student newspaper and is co-founder of her school's Fashion Crate initiative, which provides clothing to students in need. "This is the first time a team west of the Mississippi has won the national title," said Summit coach Carol McLatchie. "Fiona distinguished herself by her personal hard work, but she also earned respect for her ability to foster growth in her younger teammates."

Max 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.

Max joins Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Kelly Makin (2017-18, Sunset High School), Ember Stratton (2016-17, Sunset High School), and Ella Donaghu (2015-16, 2014-15 & 2013-14, Grant 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," Max 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.