

**LEHI HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Anna Martin of Lehi High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Utah Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Martin is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Lehi 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 Martin as Utah'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, Martin 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-2 junior raced to the Class 4A state championship this past season with a time of 17:15. Martin also won the Region 10 Championships, the BYU Autumn Classic, the Wasatch Invitational and the Park City Invitational. She took third at the Foot Locker West Regional championships and finished 34th nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships.

A devoted member of her church youth group, Martin has volunteered locally on behalf of youth running programs. "One of the many reasons I love coaching Anna is because she pushes her boundaries," said Lehi coach Chris Dorton. "She doesn't settle just because she hits a certain time or wins a certain race. She understands that what she wants to accomplish will not come easy."

Martin has maintained a 3.92 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.

Martin joins Gatorade Utah Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Sadie Sargent (2017-18, North Summit High School), Whitney Rich (2016-17, Bingham High School), Courtney Wayment (2015-16, Davis High School), and Lucy Biles (2014-15 & 2013-14, Herriman 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," Martin 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.