

**PARKERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Madison Trippett of Parkersburg High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Trippett is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Parkersburg 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 Trippett as West Virginia'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, Trippett 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 junior won the Group AAA state meet title this past season with a time of 18:00.41, breaking the tape 24.29 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Big Red to a fourth-place finish as a team. Trippett was the top West Virginia finisher at the Foot Locker South Regional championships, placing 20th in 18:00. She won five of her nine races this past fall.

A member of the Parkersburg High student council, Trippett has volunteered locally with the Humane Society. She is also the president of her church youth group. "I have felt the excitement Madison brings to a race when she kicks to finish, a kick that chews people up and spits them out," said Larry Cassidy, head coach of Williamstown High. "Her kick lasts so long it mentally wears the competition out."

Trippett has maintained a weighted 4.13 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.

Trippett joins Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Tori Starcher (2017-18, Ripley High School), TaShala Turner (2016-17, University High School), Jessica Melvin (2015-16, Philip Barbour High School), Peyton Panger (2014-15, Capital High School), and Amelia Paladino (2013-14, University 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," Trippett 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.