

MADISON WEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Genevieve Nashold of Madison West High School as its 2018-19 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Nashold is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Madison West 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 Nashold as Wisconsin'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, Nashold 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 freshman won the Division 1 state meet this past season with a time of 18:10.0, breaking the tape 16.5 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor. Nashold took 13th at the Nike Cross Nationals Heartland Regional championships and she finished 29th at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships. She won nine of her 11 races this past fall.

Nashold has volunteered locally at an animal rescue center and as a youth soccer referee. "Genevieve was a great competitor all season long," said Matt Roe, head coach of Sun Prairie High. "She's a natural talent that thrived on the competition of the race. She would push her competition hard for the first couple of miles and was then able to put them away in the last mile."

Nashold has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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.

Nashold joins Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Dana Feyen (2017-18, Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau High School), Meghan Scott (2016-17, Divine Savior Holy Angels High School), Aubrey Roberts (2015-16, Memorial High School), Annie Frisbie (2014-15, River Falls High School), and Elizabeth Flatley (2013-14, Brookfield Central 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," Nashold 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.