

**MARIANAPOLIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE
YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 27, 2020) — In its 35th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced **Sydney Masciarelli of Marianapolis Preparatory School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Masciarelli is the first Gatorade Connecticut Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Marianapolis Preparatory 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 field, distinguishes Masciarelli as Connecticut'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, Masciarelli 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 raced to seventh place at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships this past season with a time of 17:19.4. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Masciarelli won the New England Prep School Division 4 championship in 18:49. She also finished first at the Canterbury Invitational and the Marianapolis Prep Invitational and placed second at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships.

Also a basketball standout, Masciarelli has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, youth basketball camps and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation. "Sydney continues to be an impressively focused and dedicated runner," said Marianapolis coach Emily Gaudet. "She trained like an athlete much more seasoned than she is, and after the regular season ended, she continued to do runs and workouts by herself on an ice and snow covered track, without complaint."

Masciarelli has maintained a 3.57 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 and field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. From the 12 national winners, one male and one female athlete are each named Gatorade High School Athlete of the Year. In all, 607 athletes are honored each year.

Two-time winner Masciarelli joins Gatorade Connecticut Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year Morgan McCormick (2017-18 & 2016-17, Wilton High School), and Hannah DeBalsi (2015-16 & 2014-15, Staples High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Masciarelli 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.