

TWIN FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Mattie Geddes of Twin Falls High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Geddes is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Twin Falls 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 field, distinguishes Geddes as Idaho'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, Geddes 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 state's returning Gatorade Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-5 senior won the Class 4A state meet for a third-straight year this past season with a time of 17:30.09, breaking the tape 47.49 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Bruins to a third-place finish as a team. Geddes finished fifth at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships and 22nd at the NXN Final. She won eight of the 11 races she entered this season.

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Geddes is a state champion mountain biker. She has volunteered locally as a youth running coach, and she has donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church youth group. "We have been competing against Mattie for the last three years and she definitely does not go unnoticed," said Shannon Whitmer, head coach of Pocatello High. "It's fun watching her in the larger races where there are competitors that go out and push her, but she will ultimately pull out the win."

Geddes has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in her class. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Utah State University 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 Geddes joins Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year Lexy Halladay (2017-18 & 2016-17, Mountain View High School), Rachel Morrin (2015-16, Madison High School) and Emily Hamlin (2014-15, Boise High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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