

**BISHOP GUERTIN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Caroline Fischer of Bishop Guertin High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Fischer is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Guertin 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 Fischer as New Hampshire'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, Fischer 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-8 senior broke the tape at the New Hampshire Meet of Champions, clocking a 17:55.30 to finish nearly five seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor. Fischer also ran the fastest all-divisions time of the day in winning the Division 1 state title, breaking the tape in 18:16.50 and leading the Cardinals to a second-place finish as a team. Bishop Guertin was also runner-up at the MOC. Fischer still had enough in the tank to take seventh (18:47.0) at the New England Cross Country Championship, lifting the Cardinals to 7th place showing. Also the 2019 NHIAA Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, she is a 16-time All-State honoree between track and cross country, and has received All-New England recognition four times. Her athletic resume is all the more impressive given that she competes despite dealing with chronic Lyme disease.

A member of the Cardinals' Nordic ski team, Fischer serves on the leadership team of Bishop Guertin's Campus Ministry, helping to organize high school masses and performing community outreach. Also a eucharistic minister at the high school and at St. Marie's Catholic church, she has donated her time as a preschool religious education volunteer in the Seeds/Promises program in addition to volunteering on behalf of local road races. "Caroline is a tremendous athlete and won five of the seven races she entered this past fall," said Erik Boal, editor for DyeStat.com. "Her fastest all-class time at the divisional meets plus her Meet of Champions title put her over the top."

Fischer has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Providence College 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.

Fischer joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year Sophia Reynolds (2018-19, Merrimack Valley High School), Jacqueline Gaughan (2017-18 and 2016-17, Exeter High School), and Maegan Doody (2015-16 & 2014-15, Oyster River High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

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

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