

SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 **Fiona Max of Summit High School** as its **2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Max is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Summit 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 Max as Oregon’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, Max 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 raced to the Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:51.8, leading the Storm to the state title as a team. The state’s returning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Max took second at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships and finished 10th at the Nike Cross Nationals Finals, earning All-American honors. She also won the Oxford Classic, the Warner Pacific Classic and the Northwest Classic.

A Nordic skiing standout and a talented musician, Max is co-editor of her school’s award-winning newspaper. “Fiona has accumulated quite the resume in only three years of running,” said Summit coach Carol McLatchie. “She and her twin sister, Izzy, have always been active in soccer and Nordic skiing, but the running accomplishments have been amazing. The coaches and her teammates really enjoy Fiona’s spirit, on and off the track.”

Max has maintained a 4.05 GPA in the classroom. She will attend Princeton University this fall, where she will compete in cross country and track and field.

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 Max joins Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year Kelly Makin (2017-18, Sunset High School), Ember Stratton (2016-17, Sunset High School), and Ella Donaghu (2015-16 & 2014-15, Grant High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As a part of Gatorade’s cause marketing platform “Play it Forward,” Max 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.