

**ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (April 8, 2021) — In its 36th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Tiffany Herrera of St. Mark's High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Delaware Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Herrera is the first Gatorade Delaware Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Mark's 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 Herrera as Delaware's best high school girls cross country player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Player of the Year award to be announced in April, Herrera joins an elite alumni association of 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 4-foot-11 junior raced to the Division 2 individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:51.2, leading the Spartans to second place as a team. Herrera also won the Catholic Conference championship, the Delaware Sports Club Open and the St. Mark's Invitational.

Herrera has volunteered locally on behalf of a summer camp and a program for students with special needs. "Tiffany leads by example, on and off the cross country course," said St. Mark's coach Mike DiGennaro. "She's the hardest-working runner I have ever coached, but she's also extremely humble and gracious."

Herrera has maintained a B average 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 & 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.

Herrera joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Lydia Colasante (2019-20, Tatnall School), Elizabeth Bader (2018-19, Padua Academy) and Lydia Olivere (2017-18 & 2016-17, Padua Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Herrera has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Herrera is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization they chose is deserving of one of twelve \$10,000 spotlight grants, which will be announced throughout the year. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$2.7 million across 1,117 organizations.

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.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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