

**MOON AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (April 8, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Mia Cochran of Moon Area High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Cochran is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Moon Area 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 Cochran as Pennsylvania'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, Cochran 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 5-foot-5 junior won the Class AAA individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:28. Cochran also captured the District 7 championship, the PIAA Foundation Invitational and the Red, White & Blue Classic. She took ninth at the XC Town USA Meet of Champions.

Cochran has served as a tutor for younger children and has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home. "Mia flat out loves running and loves to compete, and she works out with an intensity unmatched by anyone I've seen," said Moon Area coach Tim Hrivnak. "The growth that she has achieved in her three years of running cross country in high school is remarkable."

Cochran has maintained a 3.79 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 & 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.

Cochran joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Marlee Starliper (2019-20, 2018-19 & 2017-18 Northern High School), and Aislinn Devlin (2016-17, Downingtown High School West), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Cochran has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Cochran 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](http://www.playeroftheyear.gatorade.com), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/Gatorade](https://www.twitter.com/Gatorade).

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