

**GUYER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Brynn Brown of Guyer High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Texas Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Guyer 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 Brown as Texas'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, Brown 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-7 senior raced to the Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:25.9. The 2019-20 Gatorade Texas Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Brown also won the Region 1 and the District 5 championships. She took second at the High School XC National Invitational in 16:50.2.

A devoted member of her church community, Brown maintains her own healthy food blog and has volunteered locally on behalf of a children's camp for cardiovascular ICU patients. "Brynn's physical prowess is surpassed only by her mental fortitude," said Guyer coach Jonathan Ponsonby. "Before her senior year, she had lost three of her six high school seasons—two cross country seasons to injury and one track season to the pandemic. After each derailment, she has reset, then patiently put one foot in front of the other to become a champion runner and teammate."

Brown has maintained a weighted 4.57 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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 works with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Colleen Stegmann (2019-20, Reedy High School) and London Culbreath (2018-19, 2017-18 & 2016-17, McKinney North High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Brown has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. Brown is also eligible to submit a 30-second video explaining why the organization she 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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