

**BELLOWS FALLS UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Abby Broadley of Bellows Falls Union High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Vermont Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Broadley is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Bellows Falls Union 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 Broadley as Vermont'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, Broadley 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-1 junior raced to her third consecutive Division 3 individual state championship this past season with a time of 19:43.9, leading the Terriers to the state title as a team. Broadley also won the state Meet of Champions in 18:42.3.

Also a talented artist, Broadley has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives through her church. "Abby's work ethic is at an elite level, which is the reason for her success," said Bellows Falls coach Josh Ferenc. "She holds herself to a supreme level of accountability and elevates everyone around her."

Broadley has maintained a 3.63 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 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.

Broadley joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Ava Thurston (2019-20, Harwood Union High School), Alice Larson (2018-19, Champlain Valley Union High School), and Rena Schwartz (2017-18 & 2016-17, Green Mountain Valley School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Broadley has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of her choosing. Broadley 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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