

**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (May 10, 2021) — In its 36<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company today announced Chloe Foerster of Jesuit High School as its 2020-21 Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Foerster is the second Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Foerster as Oregon's best high school girls cross country player. Foerster 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-6 junior finished fifth at the Nike Cross Virtual Championships this past season with a time of 17:04.1, the state's top finisher in the showcase. Foerster also recorded a season-best time of 16:53 at the 5K distance, Oregon's fastest clocking by a prep girl in 2020-21. She took fourth at the Class 6A state meet as a sophomore.

A member of her school's Green Team and Social Justice Union, Foerster has volunteered locally on behalf of food-donation drives, youth track programs and a homeless shelter. "I've been coaching 39 years and Chloe is the most talented and committed female athlete that I've ever been associated with," said Jesuit coach Tom Rothenberger. "Since she made the decision to forgo soccer and commit herself to running, she has created a culture on our team that is truly amazing."

Foerster has maintained a 4.08 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.

Foerster joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Fiona Max (2019-20 & 2018-19, Summit High School), Kelly Makin (2017-18, Sunset High School), and Ember Stratton (2016-17, Sunset High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Through Gatorade's cause marketing platform "Play it Forward," Foerster has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national youth sports organization of their choosing. Foerster 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.Gatorade.com/POY](http://www.Gatorade.com/POY), 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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