

**INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 24, 2022) — In its 37th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Brynn Crandell** of **Indian River High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Delaware Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Crandell is the first Gatorade Delaware Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Indian River 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 Crandell 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 February, Crandell 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 sophomore raced to the Division 2 individual state championship this past season with a time of 19:37. Crandell was undefeated on the season, also earning victories at the Salesianum Invitational, the Tidewater Fall Classic and the Sussex County Championships.

Crandell has volunteered locally on behalf of the Indian River Leo Club service organization and her church's Sunday school. "Brynn has an amazing commitment to the sport," said Indian River High School coach Rick Hundley. "She has the vision and determination to not only listen to her coaches, but to also plan her future with great organization and detail."

Crandell has maintained a weighted 4.38 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Crandell joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Tiffany Herrera (2020-21, St. Mark's High School), Lydia Colasante (2019-20, Tatnall School), Elizabeth Bader (2018-19, Padua Academy), and Lydia Olivere (2017-18, Padua Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Gatorade has a long-standing history of serving athlete communities and understands how sports instill valuable lifelong skills on and off the field. Through Gatorade's "Play it Forward" platform, Crandell has the opportunity to award a \$1,000 grant to a local or national organization of their choosing that helps young athletes realize the benefits of playing sports. Crandell is also eligible to submit a short 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 \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.