

**BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE INDIANA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 24, 2022) — In its 37<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Lily Cridge** of **Bishop Chatard High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Cridge is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Chatard 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 Cridge as Indiana'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, Cridge 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 4-foot-10 junior raced to the individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:32.7. Cridge also won the Sectional, Regional and Semi-state championships. She took second at the national Garmin RunningLane Cross Country Championships in 16:22.9 to earn All-American honors, and finished third at the Nike Cross Midwest Regional Championships.

A devoted member of her church community, Cridge has volunteered locally on behalf of Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. "I've never coached anyone that loves to run as much as Lily," said Bishop Chatard coach Dan Kinghorn. "She calls running her 'happy place,' and the tougher the workout, the longer the run, the more punishing the pace, the happier she is."

Cridge has maintained a 3.78 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 leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Cridge joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Karina James (2020-21, Lowell High School), Erin Strzelecki (2019-20, Bishop Dwenger High School), and Emma Wilson (2018-19 & 2017-18, Greencastle High School), 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, Cridge 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. Cridge 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com) or follow us on social media on Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://facebook.com/GatoradePOY), Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://instagram.com/Gatorade) and Twitter at [twitter.com/Gatorade](https://twitter.com/Gatorade).