

**WINSOR SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Meg Madison** of **Winsor School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Madison is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Winsor 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 Madison as Massachusetts'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, Madison 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 sophomore placed second at the New England Prep School Track and Field Association Division 1 Championships, breaking the tape in 18:52 to lead the Wildcats to a seventh-place finish as a team. Madison won 10 of 13 races on the season, including a victory at the Eastern Independent League championship meet by nearly two minutes. A 2021-22 Boston Globe All-Scholastic, she also took 14th at the Eastbay Northeast Regional Championships.

A competitive freeride (or backcountry) skier as well as a lacrosse player, Madison has volunteered locally as a lifeguard, and she's also a contributor for the Winsor newspaper, The Banner. "Meg was easily the top runner in our league this year—her results speak for themselves," said Brian Cook, head coach of the Dana Hall School. "She goes out hard and fast, running with intensity and determination, challenging her competition to keep up."

Madison has maintained a 3.72 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.

Madison joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Carmen Luisi (2020-21, Holliston High School), Lucy Jenks (2019-20, Newton South High School), Grace Connolly (2018-19 & 2017-18, Natick 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, Madison 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. Madison 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.

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