

**LAKE OSWEGO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 **Kate Peters** of **Lake Oswego High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Peters is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake Oswego 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 Peters as Oregon'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, Peters 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-5 junior raced to the Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:28.7. Peters won the Eastbay West Regional Championships in 17:19.2 and took sixth at the national Eastbay Cross Country Championships to earn All-American honors. She also broke the tape at the Meriwether Classic, the Nike Portland XC meet and the Three Rivers League Championships.

Peters has volunteered locally on behalf of community improvement projects and youth track programs. "Kate Peters is fearless," said Eric Dettman, head coach at Lincoln High School. "There's never a moment that's too big for her. She's fun to watch and she had an incredible year."

Peters has maintained a 3.53 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.

Peters joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Chloe Foerster (2020-21, Jesuit High School), Fiona Max (2019-20 & 2018-19, Summit High School), and Kelly Makin (2017-18, Sunset 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, Peters 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. Peters 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.