

**EAST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 **Reese Fahys** of **East Greenwich High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Fahys is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from East Greenwich 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 Fahys as Rhode Island'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, Fahys 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-8 junior won her second straight state meet title this past season with a time of 17:40.65, breaking the tape 33.09 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Avengers to a third-place finish as a team. Fahys was undefeated against in-state competition and cruised to victory in the Class B Championships by more than a minute. She was the 2019 New Jersey Group 3 state champion as a freshman at Middletown South High School.

A member of the Women Empowerment Club at East Greenwich High, Fahys has volunteered as a lifeguard and with the Kent County YMCA. "Reese is an absolutely amazing athlete to work with," said Erin Terry, head coach of East Greenwich High School. "She is unwavering in her dedication to her sport and her training."

Fahys has maintained a weighted 3.75 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.

Two-time winner Fahys joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Margot Appleton (2019-20, Portsmouth Abbey School), Elizabeth Sullivan (2018-19, Portsmouth High School), and Ellie Lawler (2017-18, 2016-17 & 2015-16, South Kingstown 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, Fahys 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. Fahys 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.