

**KENNEWICK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Macy Marquardt** of **Kennewick High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Marquardt is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Kennewick 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 Marquardt as Washington'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, Marquardt 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-4 senior raced to the Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:31.7. Marquardt also won the Nike Cross Northwest Regional Championships in 17:27.8, and broke the tape at the Highlander Invitational, the Max Jensen Richland Invitational and the District 8 Championships as well.

Marquardt has assisted teachers at her school with its move to a new campus and has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects. "Macy Marquardt is the most driven runner that I've ever been around," said Shaun Suss, coach at Kamiakin High School. "She's ultra, ultra competitive, and she won't back off against anyone. I think she's one of the better racers in the country."

Marquardt has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at Boise State University 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.

Marquardt joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Julia David-Smith (2020-21 & 2019-20, Issaquah High School), Ella Borsheim (2018-19, Bellarmine Preparatory School), and Katie Thronson (2017-18, Lewis and Clark 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, Marquardt 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. Marquardt 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).