

**JACKSON HOLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING 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 Brigham** of **Jackson Hole High School** is the **2021-22 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Brigham is the second Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Jackson Hole 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 Brigham as Wyoming'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, Brigham 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-11 senior won the Class 4A state meet this past season with a course-record time of 18:38.15, breaking the tape 35.59 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Broncs to a second-place finish as a team. Brigham also took eighth at the Nike Cross Northwest Regional Championships, and her fifth-place finish in 17:28.3 at the Nike Hole in the Wall Invitational in Arlington, Wash., was a personal-best and the top girls time in the state this fall by more than 50 seconds.

Brigham was the founding member of the Walk or Dance Club, which provides a welcoming environment to new students at Jackson Hole High School. She has volunteered locally as part of community beautification projects and at area ski races. "Kate is a very impressive runner," said Greg Schabron, head coach of Laramie High School. "She runs a very smooth race and is confident in taking the lead when and where necessary. She has talent, but also came into the season fit and ready to go."

Brigham has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Colorado 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.

Brigham joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Player of the Year Sydney Thorvaldson (2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19, & 2017-18, Rawlins 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, Brigham 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. Brigham 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.

###