

**CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 23, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Campbell Peterson** of **Chugiak High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Alaska Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Peterson is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Chugiak 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 Peterson as Alaska'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 January, Peterson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners, including Natalie Cook (2021-22, Flower Mound High School, Flower Mound, Texas), Katelyn Tuohy (2019-20, North Rockland High School, Thiels, N.Y.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester High School, Rochester Hills, Mich.) and Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.).

The 5-foot-3 senior raced to the Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a time of 19:16.0, leading the Mustangs to back-to-back team titles. Peterson also won the George Plumley Invitational and Ted McKenney Invitational.

Also the team's videographer and a photographer of running events, Peterson is a member of the Student Advisory Board and the Chugiak High School Partners Club, on behalf of which she mentors peers with special needs, and she has served in student government. Peterson has also volunteered locally in association with the National Honor Society, a LDS Youth program and Special Olympics Alaska. "The career growth of Campbell Peterson finally culminated in a Division 1 state championship as she grew from three previous experiences at the final to add to her two track titles from last spring with her first career cross country crown," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "She achieved the feat in impressive fashion by going undefeated against Alaska competition throughout the season."

Peterson has maintained a weighted 4.12 GPA in the classroom. She remains undecided upon a college destination.

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.

Peterson joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Robyn Miller (2021-22, South Anchorage High School), Naomi Bailey (2020-21, West Valley High School), and Kendall Kramer (2019-20 & 2018-19, West Valley High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

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.