

**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 23, 2023) — In its 38<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Haley Loewe** of **Bentonville High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Loewe is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Bentonville 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 Loewe as Arkansas' 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, Loewe 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-6 junior raced to the Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:43.7, leading the Tigers to a fifth consecutive team title. Loewe also won the prestigious El Caliente race at the Chile Pepper Festival along with earning All-America honors by finishing 19<sup>th</sup> at the Garmin RunningLane National Championships in Alabama.

A member of the National Honor Society while previously attending Hudson High in Wisconsin, Loewe has remained active with the organization following her move to Bentonville. She has also been part of a service-mission trip with Bethel Lutheran Church and is registered for a second one this year, in addition to working with Feed My Starving Children. Loewe also volunteers locally as a youth basketball coach. "Following her arrival from Wisconsin, Haley Loewe made a profound impact in her first season for one of the most storied programs in Arkansas, winning her debut at the prestigious Chile Pepper Festival and helping Bentonville capture a fifth consecutive team state championship," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "She also earned All-America honors competing for the first time at the RunningLane National Championships in Alabama."

Loewe has maintained a 4.07 weighted 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.

Loewe joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Olivia Pielemeier (2021-22, Lake Hamilton High School), Mia Loafman (2020-21, Rogers High School), and Ali Nachtigal (2019-20 & 2018-19, Rogers 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](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).