

**POST FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 **Annastasia Peters** of **Post Falls High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Peters is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Post Falls 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 Peters as Idaho'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, Peters 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-8 senior raced to the Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:56.07, leading the Trojans to a fifth-place finish as a team. Peters also won the Nike Twilight Invitational in Washington and the Mountain West Classic in Montana. The William Johnson Sandpoint Invitational and Timberlake Farragut Invitational were also among her seven 5K victories in 2022.

Peters is a member of the Northwest Rangers 4-H Club, assisting with food donations. She has also worked with local food banks during donation drives in addition to contributing to roadside cleanup efforts at local parks and fairgrounds. "Annastasia Peters was one of the elite athletes in the country this fall, highlighted by an exceptional sub-17 effort at the state final at Lewiston Orchards," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "Her regular-season success against several top Northwest competitors at invitationals in Montana and Washington created the confidence for her to become the first Idaho female to produce multiple sub-17 performances at the 5K distance."

Peters has maintained a 4.11 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Utah 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.

Peters joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Nelah Roberts (2021-22, Skyline High School), Sammy Smith (2020-21, Boise High School), and Mattie Geddes (2019-20 & 2018-19, Twin Falls 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.

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