

**BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE INDIANA 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 **Lily Cridge** of **Bishop Chatard High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Cridge is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Chatard 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 Cridge as Indiana'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, Cridge 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 state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 4-foot-10 senior raced to a second straight individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:14.6. Cridge also broke the tape at the Sectional, Regional and Semi-state championships, repeating her junior year performances. She took fourth at the Nike Midwest Regional Championships and finished 28th at Nike Cross Nationals.

A leader at the Circle City Conference Leadership Summit, Cridge has also been an active member of St. Simon the Apostle Church, where she also serves as a bible camp volunteer. She has also volunteered locally on behalf of Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana by providing meals for the homeless. "Lily Cridge was again one of the most consistent competitors nationally, with eight consecutive victories to open the season, highlighted by clinching back-to-back state championships and advancing to Nike Cross Nationals," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "Cridge's success was magnified by defending her Indiana state title against one of the elite state fields in the entire country, including several national qualifiers."

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

Two-time winner Cridge joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Karina James (2020-21, Lowell High School), Erin Strzelecki (2019-20, Bishop Dwenger High School), and Emma Wilson (2018-19, Greencastle 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).