THE WINSOR SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 **Meg Madison** of **The Winsor School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Madison is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from The Winsor 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 Madison as Massachusetts' 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, Madison 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 5-foot-6 junior raced to an individual title this past season at the New England Prep School Track and Field Association Division 1 Championships, leading the Wildcats to a seventh-place finish as a team. Madison won the Eastern Independent League championship for the second straight season and repeated as champion at the Canterbury Invitational. She finished fifth in the Eastern States Championship race at the Manhattan Invitational and took sixth at the Champs Sports Northeast Regional Championships. She also placed 27th at the Champs Sports National Championships, her first appearance at a meet of that stature since the 2019 Nike Cross Nationals.

Madison has been a volunteer coach for YES Kids, a program organized to provide opportunities for youth to get involved in sports, specifically track and skiing, which is also a sport that she has also been actively involved in for several years. A member of The Winsor School's Spirit Club, Madison is also a part of a committee planning Party with a Purpose, a multi-school fundraiser to support the Boston Children's Hospital Miracle Network. "Meg Madison showcased an even better version of the competitor she was in winning the award last year, capturing the NEPSTA Division 1 title and producing a pair of impressive efforts at Van Cortlandt Park in New York, including the Champs Sports Northeast Regional," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "She advanced to a national final for the second time in her career."

Madison has maintained a 3.72 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.

Two-time winner Madison joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Carmen Luisi (2020-21, Holliston High School), Lucy Jenks (2019-20, Newton South High School), and Grace Connolly (2018-19, Natick 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.