

**GALENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Eleanor Raker** of **Galena High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Raker is the first Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Galena 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 Raker as Nevada'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, Raker 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-7 sophomore raced to the Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:26.7, leading the Grizzlies to a third-place finish as a team. Raker also won the Truckee Invitational, Rio Linda Open and Reed Invitational in addition to finishing second at the Tom Laythe Invitational and taking fifth at the Flat SAC Invitational against elite California competition. She crossed the line 11th at the Champs Sports West Regional Championships and finished 16th at the Nike Southwest Regional Championships in Arizona.

An accomplished piano and guitar player who participates in the school marching, concert and drumline bands, Raker has devoted more than 100 hours annually to local community service organizations, performing park clean ups with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and assisting at the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Raker also helps coach with Special Olympics of Northern Nevada and organized an Open Mic night series for local youth interested in the performing arts, which has raised thousands of dollars for scholarships for kids to attend music camps. "Although Eleanor Raker enjoyed plenty of success against Nevada competition, she demonstrated great potential for the future when competing against elite athletes from Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah at regular-season invitationals as well as a pair of postseason regional meets," said Erik Boal, an editor at DyeStat.com. "She gained valuable experience in preparation to hopefully advance to a national championship event next year."

Raker has maintained a 4.28 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Raker joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Olivia Garcia (2021-22, Cimarron-Memorial High School), Kendra Lusk (2020-21, Spring Creek High School), Penelope Smerdon (2019-20, Reno High School), and Carissa Buchholz (2018-19, South Lake Tahoe 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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