

**OLMSTED FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Katie Clute** of **Olmsted Falls High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Clute is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Olmsted 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 Clute as Ohio'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, Clute 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-5 senior raced to the Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:25.1. Clute won her first 10 races, including victories at the Seneca East's Stars meet, the Stripes and Lights Invitational, the Strongsville Fleet Feet Invitational and the Saturday Night Lights Invitational. She was an All-American at the Garmin RunningLane National Championships following her 10th-place finish in Alabama and took 22nd at the Champs Sports National Championships in San Diego.

A member of the National Honor Society and Math Honor Society, Clute has also served as an elected class officer the past two years to help organize Olmsted Falls High School prom and graduation events. She has also been a student ambassador for the school in addition to being a part of the Principal's Advisory Committee. Clute volunteered locally as a coach for GOH Run day camps and youth running programs in addition to coaching in the Olmsted Falls Soccer Association. She has coordinated fundraising efforts for Ronald McDonald House Charities and partnered with Bulldog Buddies to mentor a local second-grade student. "Katie Clute performed at a level significantly higher than anyone in Ohio all season and showcased even more talent with her postseason success, including All-America honors at the RunningLane Championships in Alabama," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "One of the most underrated national efforts all season was Clute's 17:02.68 clocking at the Seneca East's Stars, Stripes and Lights meet."

Clute has maintained a 4.00 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.

Clute joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Grace Hartman (2021-22 & 2020-21, Oakwood High School), and Taylor Ewert (2019-20 & 2018-19, Beaver Creek 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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