

**EDMOND NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 **Liesel Kehoe** of **Edmond North High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Kehoe is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Edmond North 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 Kehoe as Oklahoma'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, Kehoe 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 junior raced to the Class 6A individual state championship this past year with a time of 17:14.34, leading the Huskies to third place as a team. Kehoe also won the Central Oklahoma Athletic Conference title and Metro Mid-State Athletic Conference Invitational as well as the Ponca City Regional meet. She took third at the Nike South Regional Championships to advance to Nike Cross Nationals for the first time in her prep career, finishing 23rd in Oregon.

A member of the National Honor Society and the Edmond North High School French Club, Kehoe is an officer in the local Students United for Nature Club, which organizes projects and volunteer efforts to make positive environmental impact in Edmond. She has also donated her time as a candidate for Bring A Light To Others, a school fundraiser that has raised over \$4 million dollars for BALTO recipients, including child cancer patients, brain tumor patients, special education students, premature babies and many more worthy causes. "Liesel Kehoe recovered in time from an offseason hip injury to return to the national spotlight, capturing her first state cross country title and finishing third at the Nike South Regional," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "She also became the first prep girl from Oklahoma since 2016 to advance to Nike Cross Nationals in Oregon."

Kehoe has maintained a 4.75 weighted 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.

Kehoe joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Cayden Dawson (2021-22, Bixby High School), Payton Hinkle (2020-21 & 2019-20, Broken Arrow High School), and Sophia Maag (2018-19, Norman 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).