

**GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Caroline Lyerly** of **Greenville High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Lyerly is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Greenville 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 Lyerly as South Carolina'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, Lyerly 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 Class 4A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:31.67, leading the Red Raiders to the state title as a team. Lyerly also won the Class 4A regional meet as well as the Class 4A state qualifier, and finished second at the Bob Jenkins SCTCCA Coaches Classic, the Starlight Run and the Ed Boehmke Greenville County Championships. She took fourth at the Nike Southeast Regional Championships in North Carolina, advancing to Nike Cross Nationals in Oregon for the first time in her career.

A sales associate and social media director at Fleet Feet Greenville, Lyerly has volunteered locally at the YMCA Judson Community Center and on behalf of Sharing On All Porches (SOAP), which collects donations and distributes them to charities in need. She is serving as senior class treasurer after previously being a junior marshal. A member of the National Honor Society and National Senior Beta Club, Lyerly is also vice president of the school's Future Health Professionals club, a student-led organization with the mission to promote career opportunities in the health industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care. "Caroline Lyerly did an excellent job of building her fitness during a consistent regular season capped by a state team title, and three straight standout performances in November helped her ascend to the level of being one of the nation's elite competitors," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "She was the only South Carolina prep girl ranked in the DyeStat.com Top 100 this year."

Lyerly has maintained a 5.47 weighted GPA on a 4.00 scale in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on scholarship at the University of Tennessee 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.

Lyerly joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Hannah Vroon (2021-22, James Island Charter High School), Katie Pou (2020-21, Nation Ford High School), and Ava Dobson (2019-20 & 2018-19, St. Joseph's Catholic 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).

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