

**THE WEBB SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Abby Faith Cheeseman** of **The Webb School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Cheeseman is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from The Webb 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 Cheeseman as Tennessee'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, Cheeseman 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 sophomore won the Division 2A state meet for the third consecutive season with a time of 17:12.53, leading the Feet to a second-place finish as a team. Cheeseman also won the Frank Horton "Night" Classic and the Jesse Owens Classic in Alabama. She took seventh at the Champs Sports South Regional in North Carolina, before improving by more than a minute from her 2021 race at nationals to finish fourth at the Champs Sports National Championships.

Cheeseman was one of only three sophomores to be recognized as an Alla Webb Inductee, the highest academic honor society at her school. She sits first chair violin in the school's Strings Orchestra and also sings the National Anthem at home meets. Cheeseman assembled all the orientation binders for the school's middle school students this year and leads middle school bible study meetings. "Abby Faith Cheeseman ran 17:13.4, which is the fastest time ever by a Tennessee prep girl at Balboa Park in San Diego at the Champs Sports National Championships," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "She also won her third straight state title, clocking the second-fastest girls time in history on the state meet course in the process."

Cheeseman has maintained an unweighted 4.30 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.

Two-time winner Cheeseman joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Jenna Hutchins (2020-21 & 2019-20, Science Hill High School) and Sasha Neglia (2018-19, Dobyns-Bennett 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.