

**MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 **Tess Drury of Mount Mansfield Union High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Vermont Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Drury is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Mount Mansfield Union 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 Drury as Vermont'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, Drury 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-4 senior raced to a third-place individual finish at the New England Championships this past season with a time of 18:46.9, making her the state's fastest runner at the event. Drury also took third at the Division 1 state final, helping the Cougars finish fourth as a team. She won the Woods Trail Run and NVAC Chittenden Championships, finished second at the Essex Invitational and placed third at the Manchester Invitational. She crossed the line ninth at the Nike Northeast Regional Championships in New York, advancing to the Nike Cross Nationals in Oregon for the first time in her prep career.

An avid reader who finished more than 80 books this past year, Drury has volunteered locally at the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library. She has also donated her time coaching the Mount Mansfield middle school and elementary school summer cross country and track programs. "Tess Drury demonstrated her maturity and experience by rebounding from a narrow setback at the state final to produce her top two performances of the season against elite fields at the New England Championships and Nike Northeast Regionals," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "She showed substantial improvement at both events from last year in order to make her debut at a national final."

Drury has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to run at St. Michael's College 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.

Drury joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Ava Thurston (2021-22 & 2019-20, Harwood Union High School), Abby Broadley (2020-21, Bellows Falls Union High School), and Alice Larson (2018-19, Champlain Valley Union 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).