

**SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 **Anna Callahan** of **Skyline High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Callahan is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Skyline 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 Callahan as Washington'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, Callahan 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-7 junior raced to the Class 4A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:03.5. Callahan also won the Nike Northwest Regional Championships in Idaho along with the Nike Hole in the Wall Invitational. She finished second at the Nike Portland XC Invitational and crossed the line ninth at Nike Cross Nationals to become an All-American for the first time in her career.

Callahan has been an integral part of the Pine Lake Covenant Church Missions team and youth group, helping raise money for outreach trips to the Dominican Republic, in addition to planning and participating in meal-packaging events for Sierra Leone through Children of the Nations. She has also served in the school's Key Club and has been a member of DECA. "There wasn't much separation among Anna Callahan and her Washington peers during the regular season, but the postseason told a much different story," said Erik Boal, an editor for DyeStat.com. "Callahan ascended to count herself among the top five juniors in the country by the end of the season and concluded her junior year ranked No. 15 by DyeStat.com, regardless of class."

Callahan maintains a 4.00 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.

Callahan joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Macy Marquardt (2021-22, Kennewick High School), Julia David-Smith (2020-21 & 2019-20, Issaquah High School), and Ella Borsheim (2018-19, Bellarmine Preparatory 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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