

**VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IOWA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 22, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Addison Dorenkamp** of **Valley High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Iowa Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Dorenkamp is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Valley High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Dorenkamp as Iowa's best high school girls cross country player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Irene Riggs (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Morgantown High School, Morgantown, W. Va.), Katelyn Tuohy (2019-20, 2018-19 & 2017-18, North Rockland High School, Thiels, N.Y.) and Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6 senior won the Class 4A state title this past season, breaking the tape in an all-class best 17:41.5 to clock the fourth-fastest state meet time by an Iowa athlete in the history of the Fort Dodge course. It turns out Dorenkamp was just getting started, moving on to become the state's top finisher at the Nike Cross Heartland Regional (7th), the Foot Locker Midwest Region championship (9th), the national RunningLane XC Championships (5th) and Foot Locker nationals (17th). Also the state's 2021-22 Gatorade Player of the Year, she crossed the line at NXR Heartland in a personal-best 17:32.70.

A participant in Operation Christmas Drive, Dorenkamp has volunteered locally as part of food and clothing drives. She has also donated her time on behalf of the DM Marathon, Ironman competitions, the Valley Youth Track Club and a summer camp, associated with her church community. "Addison Dorenkamp undertook perhaps the most daunting postseason schedule of any prep in America in 2023, participating in all three national postseason series and emerging as the only runner in America to finish in the Top 10 of two regionals and the top five of a national title meet," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "She was the clear choice to win her second Gatorade award."

Dorenkamp has maintained a weighted 3.88 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to run on scholarship at the University of Alabama 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 Dorenkamp joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Paityn Noe (2022-23, Ballard High School), Danielle Hostetler (2020-21, Mid-Prairie High School) and Marie Hostetler (2019-20, Mid-Prairie High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade's commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

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.

###