

**WESTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 **Claire White** of **Westside High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. White is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Westside 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 White as Nebraska’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 A state title this past season, breaking the tape in 18:32.5 and leading the Warriors to a third-place finish as a team. White was also the top Nebraska finisher—fourth overall—in the Gold Race at the challenging Rim Rock Farm Classic. She clocked a personal-best 17:55.15 to finish second at the Platte River Rumble.

An active member of Red Shield, a student organization that fosters school spirit, White also participates in DECA, which prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in finance, marketing, hospitality and management. She has volunteered locally by assisting at road races. “A four-time All-State selection, Westside High senior Claire White captured her first title with the fastest all-class performance at the state meet,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “Demonstrating admirable consistency, she won four races and finished second in three others.”

White has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to run on scholarship at Iowa State University 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.

White joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Mia Murray (2022-23, Lincoln East High School), Elli Dahl (2021-22, Fremont High School), Stella Miner (2020-21, Marian High School) and Berlyn Schutz (2019-20, Lincoln East 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.

###