

**GALENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 **Eleanor Raker** of **Galena High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Raker is the first Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Galena 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 Raker as Nevada'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 State's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 5-foot-7 junior raced to second place at the Foot Locker West Regional championship with a time of 17:58.0, which represented the best finish by a Nevada athlete at the event in 17 years. Raker also recorded a top 20 finish at the Nike Cross Nationals Southwest Region championships, clocking a personal best 17:49.82 to take 16th. She was second at the NIAA Class 5A state meet, a loss she avenged at Nike regionals.

An accomplished piano and guitar player who participates in the school's marching, concert and drumline bands, Raker has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics of Northern Nevada, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful nonprofit. "Eleanor Raker repeatedly crossed state lines to face top competition and it paid off as she stamped herself among the most improved runners in the southwestern United States in 2023," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "The Galena High junior's high-water mark came at the Foot Locker West Regional in California, where she earned All-Region accolades."

Raker has maintained a weighted 4.70 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.

Two-time winner Raker joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Olivia Garcia (2021-22, Cimarron-Memorial High School), Kendra Lusk (2020-21, Spring Creek High School) and Penelope Smerdon (2019-20, Reno 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.

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