

**HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 **Lea Perreard** of **Hanover High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Perreard is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Hanover 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 Perreard as New Hampshire’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-3 sophomore swept the NHIAA Meet of Champions and the Division 2 state meet this past season, clocking the fastest all-divisions time in the latter and leading the Bears to a second-place finish as a team at both events. Perreard’s winning time at the MOC was a personal best as she broke the tape in 17:50.91. Posting a 6-2 meet record in 2023, she was unbeaten by an in-state runner. She was also the state’s top prep girl at the New England XC Championships, where she finished seventh.

Perreard has volunteered locally on behalf of the Upper Valley High Trail Corps and the Friends of Oak Hill (Outdoor Center) corps. A US Ski & Snowboard-certified Juniors coach, she has worked at Bill Koch League Ford Sayre Ski Club events for the past three ski seasons. She has also donated her time to the Youth-In-Action service organization and as a Counselor in Training at Horizons Day Camp. “For Lea Perreard, it was go-time throughout the postseason,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCal Track. “She won the individual divisional title by more than 17 seconds, then clocked 5:44 miles at the Meet of Champions to win that race as well. Her great run at New England’s helped her team to a fifth-place finish overall.”

Perreard has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Perreard joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Brianna Malone (2022-23, Portsmouth Christian Academy), Chloe Trudel (2021-22, Souhegan High School), Addison Cox (2020-21, Coe-Brown Northwood Academy) and Caroline Fischer (2019-20, Bishop Guertin 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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