

**THE WEBB SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Abby Faith Cheeseman** of **The Webb School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Cheeseman is the first Gatorade Tennessee Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from The Webb 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 Cheeseman as Tennessee’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 junior took second at the Foot Locker South Region championships this past season, qualifying her for Foot Locker nationals, where she earned Third Team All-America honors by crossing the line in 13th. Also victorious in the Race of Champions at the Great American Cross Country Festival, she sparked her team to the title at TSSAA Division 2-Class A state meet this past season, breaking the tape with an all-class best time of 16:44.1. Now a three-time Gatorade State Player of the Year, she will be Tennessee’s top returning finisher at a national meet when the 2024 campaign commences.

A member of her school’s Honors Orchestra, Cheeseman has also sung the national anthem at track and field meets, football games and the Tennessee Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Conference. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Trinity Presbyterian Church and as a Webb Student Ambassador, providing tours for prospective families. “Abby Faith Cheeseman authored one of the greatest seasons in Tennessee prep cross country history en route to her fourth consecutive individual state championship,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “She also led The Webb School program to its first state team championship in the sport.”

Cheeseman has maintained a 4.52 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.

Three-time winner Cheeseman joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Jenna Hutchins (2020-21 & 2019-20, Science Hill 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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