

**HOMEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2025) — In its 40th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Emma Brooke Levering** of **Homewood High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alabama Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Levering is the second Gatorade Alabama **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Homewood High School.

Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation’s best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. The award distinguishes Levering as Alabama’s best high school girls cross country athlete, and she joins an impressive group of alumni that spans CEOs, coaches and star athletes such as Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, Ca.), Katelyn Tuohy (2017-18, 2018-19 & 2019-20, North Rockland High School, N.Y.) and Addison Ritzenhein (2023-24, Niwot High School, Co.).

The 5-foot-2 senior broke the tape at the AHSAA Class 6A state meet this past season with a time of 17:47.0, winning by 28 seconds and leading the Patriots to second place as a team. Levering also finished 22nd at the RunningLane Championships in 17:48.3, the top performance by an Alabama girl. The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, she won 6 of her 11 starts last fall, including the Black & Gold Classic in a season-best 17:43.7.

A tenor saxophone in the Homewood Patriot Marching Band, Levering has volunteered locally with Peer Helpers, which promotes drug and alcohol use prevention. She has also donated her time to multiple community service initiatives through her church and through the National Beta Club in addition to working with Best Buddies, mentoring special needs students. “Emma Brooke Levering’s domination continued as she emerged unbeaten against in-state rivals while posting most of the top times in Alabama this past season,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “She impressed the most when faced with her biggest challenges and enjoyed a number of wide victory margins to close out her prep distance career.”

Levering has maintained a weighted 4.28 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run cross country and track at Penn 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 across 12 different high school sports – 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 Levering joins recent Gatorade Alabama Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Reagan Riley (2022-23, Mountain Brook High School) and Crawford West (2021-22 & 2020-21, Vestavia Hills 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, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$5.6 million in grants to winners across more than 2,000 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 Instagram at [instagram.com/Gatorade](https://www.instagram.com/Gatorade), Facebook at [facebook.com/GatoradePOY](https://www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY) and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.