

**WASILLA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**CHICAGO** (January 16, 2025) — In its 40<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Hailee Giacobbe** of **Wasilla High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Alaska Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Giacobbe is the first Gatorade Alaska **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Wasilla 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 Giacobbe as Alaska’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 sophomore won the Division 1 state meet this past season with a time of 19:04.5, breaking the tape 4.5 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Warriors to sixth place as a team. Giacobbe was the top Alaskan finisher at the Nike Cross Northwest Regional Championships. She was also named Division 1 Region III Runner of the Year.

Giacobbe has volunteered locally as a youth running coach. “Hailee is a phenomenal competitor,” said Lesley Varys, head coach of Wasilla High School. “She started the season strong and finished near the top of every race. But the most exciting part was her determination and focus which led her to win the final four races of the season.”

Giacobbe has maintained a 3.95 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 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.

Giacobbe joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Hannah Shaha (2023-24, Chugiak High School), Campbell Peterson (2022-23, Chugiak High School), Robyn Miller (2021-22, South Anchorage High School) and Naomi Bailey (2020-21, West Valley 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](http://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](https://x.com/Gatorade).

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