

ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 **Lilly Beshears** of **Rogers High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Beshears is the fourth Gatorade Arkansas **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Rogers 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 Beshears as Arkansas’ 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-8 junior took seventh at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships this past season, clocking a time of 18:04.0 to earn Second Team All-American honors. Beshears broke the tape at the NXN South Regional and captured bronze at Foot Locker South to secure dual First Team All-Region honors. She won the 6A state meet last fall in 17:05.43, leading the Mounties to the team title, and became the state’s first prep girl to crack the 17-minute barrier with a personal-best 16:40.40 to win the Chile Pepper XC Festival El Caliente Division. She was a Third Team All-American at the national NXN Final, finishing 17th.

A member of the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society, Beshears belongs to her school’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes and its Literacy Legends Club. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Paralympics, the Fellowship Bible Church, Pedal It Forward and the Comets youth soccer team. She has also donated her time as a road race and track meet worker and as part of the City of Rogers Tornado Cleanup. “Lilly has set the bar for Arkansas high school cross country,” said Michelle Fyfe, head coach at Fayetteville High School. “She’s running times on a national level and is an amazing representative of our state and sport. She is so kind to every other runner and cheers everyone on. I haven’t seen a talent like hers from this state in my 18 years of coaching here.”

Beshears has maintained a weighted 4.11 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 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.

Beshears joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Haley Loewe (2023-24 & 2022-23, Bentonville High School), Olivia Pielemeier (2021-22, Lake Hamilton High School) and Mia Loafman (2020-21, Rogers 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.

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