

**SPRUCE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 **Mackenzie Roy** of **Spruce Creek High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Florida Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Roy is the first Gatorade Florida **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Spruce Creek 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 Roy as Florida’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-5 senior won the FHSAA Class 4A state meet this past season with a time of 17:19.5, breaking the tape 35 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor. Roy also broke the tape at the Class 4A District 2 meet in a personal-best 17:01.0. A winner in 5 of her 6 races, she clocked sub-17:40 for 5K a state-leading six times.

A member of the National Honor Society, Roy has volunteered locally with Hope’s Place, a victim-focused children’s advocacy center. She has also donated her time as a mentor with the Ormond Beach Youth Soccer Club. “As the championship season wore on, Mackenzie Roy knew exactly how to bear down,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “When the biggest challenge confronted her, the returning All-State selection raced to a 35-second victory margin—easily the largest of the all-class meet—to cement herself as the season’s premier talent in the Sunshine State.”

Roy has maintained a weighted 4.22 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run cross country and track at Auburn 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.

Roy joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Addison Dempsey (2023-24, Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School), Eliana Black (2022-23, Cambridge Christian School) and Caroline Wells (2021-22 & 2020-21, Winter Springs 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.