

INDIAN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE INDIANA 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 **Libby Dowty** of **Indian Creek High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Dowty is the first Gatorade Indiana **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Indian 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 Dowty as Indiana’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-3 junior took fifth at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships this past season to earn First Team All-American honors. Dowty also finished fifth and seventh, respectively, at the Foot Locker and NXN Midwest Regional championships, which garnered All-Region recognition in both events. Ranked as the nation’s No. 14 distance talent of 2024 in both the Dyestat 100 and the MileSplit 50, she gave national champion Jane Hedengren of Utah all she could handle in taking second at the Nike XC Town Twilight Invitational last October, finishing closer to Hedengren than any competitor all year (10.16 seconds).

A devoted member of her church community, Dowty has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her parish. She has also donated her time as a youth running coach and with a student group that delivers uplifting messaging to her school community. “After rolling through the first two months of the season last fall, Libby Dowty could have let a disappointing underperformance at states derail her 2024 campaign,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “Instead, she rebounded to earn First Team All-Region honors at both the Nike and Foot Locker Midwest championships, then took fifth at Foot Locker nationals.”

Dowty has maintained a weighted 4.37 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.

Two-time winner Dowty joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Lily Cridge (2022-23 & 2021-22, Bishop Chatard High School) and Karina James (2020-21, Lowell 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.