SEAMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE KANSAS 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 **Ryin Miller** of **Seaman High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Kansas Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Miller is the first Gatorade Kansas **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Seaman 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 Miller as Kansas' 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-7 junior was the state's top finisher at the Nike Cross Heartland Regional this past season, placing third with a time of 16:44.6. Miller took second at the KSHSAA Class 5A state meet, leading the Vikings to sixth place as a team. She also broke the tape and clocked the state's fastest girls 5K in state history at the Joe Schrag Invitational with a time of 16:32.7. The state's reigning Gatorade Player of the Year for Track and Field, she capped her 2024 campaign with a top-40 finish at the Nike Cross Nationals Final in Oregon.

A member of the school's Key Club, Miller has volunteered locally by helping to organize the preschool's Easter Egg Hunt and she's donated her time as a reader and pen pal at local elementary schools. She's also served as a youth basketball and soccer coach and has organized strength and conditioning courses at local sports camps. "Ryin Miller moved to the head of the class in the state's all-time cross-country annals," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "Her excellence also crossed state lines this past season as the Sunflower State's top performer in regional and national postseason competitions. She's a rising star on the nationwide landscape."

Miller has maintained a weighted 4.15 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.

Miller joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Katelyn Rupe (2023-24 & 2022-23, Salina Central High School), Anjali Hocker Singh (2021-22, Olathe North High School) and Taylor Briggs (2020-21, Chapman 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 <u>playeroftheyear.gatorade.com</u> or follow us on social media on Instagram at <u>instagram.com/Gatorade</u>. Facebook at <u>facebook.com/GatoradePOY</u> and X(Twitter) at <u>x.com/Gatorade</u>.