

**ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 **Michelle Daigle** of **St. Joseph's Academy** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Daigle is the second Gatorade Louisiana **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Joseph's Academy.

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 Daigle as Louisiana'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-7 senior narrowly missed All-Region honors at the Nike Cross South Regional, clocking a time of 18:36.5 as the top Louisiana girl at the meet. Daigle took second at the LHSAA state meet this past season with a time of 17:44.5, leading the Redstickers to the team title. A winner in 5 of her 9 races last fall, she broke the tape at the East Baton Rouge Metro Championship as well as the Region 2 Championship in a season-best 16:56.7.

A participant in multiple community service initiatives with her church, Daigle has volunteered locally at St. James Place Retirement & Senior Living Center as well as The Lodge at Lane, assisting the elderly in leisure and recreational activities. She has also donated her time with Sticker Sacks, an on-campus activity that prepares brown bag lunches for the St. Vincent De Paul Society to help fight hunger in Baton Rouge. "Michelle Daigle's excellence spanned all four years of her prep career at St. Joseph's Academy, resulting in four All-State recognitions while also leading her teams to four consecutive state crowns," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "This year was her best, however, recording the four fastest times of 2024 by any Louisiana runner, including the state's third-fastest time in the history of Division I."

Daigle has maintained a 3.02 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run cross country and track at Louisiana State 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.

Daigle joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Catalina Reichard (2023-24, Mount Carmel Academy), Emma Bourg (2022-23, Houma Christian School), Lily Garrett (2021-22, Ruston High School) and Kelsey Major (2020-21, St. Mary's Dominican 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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