

**HARRISONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 **Kayleigh Norris of Harrisonville High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Missouri Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Norris is the first Gatorade Missouri **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Harrisonville 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 Norris as Missouri’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-2 senior won the Class 4 state meet this past season, breaking the tape in 18:29.30. Norris was also the state’s top prep girls finisher at the Rim Rock Farm Classic, where she took sixth, and the Nike XC Town Invitational, where she crossed the line 17th with a personal-best time of 17:35.78. Norris broke 18 minutes three times last fall.

A member of the Student Council, the Key Club and DECA at her school, Norris recently completed a Marketing Internship with the Brickhouse Coffee Shop. She has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society. “Norris was the state’s most consistent runner and went undefeated against in-state competition through the state meet,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “Her performances at the Rim Rock and Nike meets stood out from the state’s other contenders in 2024.”

Norris has maintained a weighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at the University of Alabama 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.

Norris joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Natalie Barnard (2023-24, Lafayette High School), Grace Tyson (2022-23, Lafayette High School), Julia Ray (2021-22, MICDS) and Ally Kruger (2020-21, Liberty 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.