

## **LAKE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OHIO 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 **Daniela Scheffler** of **Lake High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Scheffler is the first Gatorade Ohio **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake 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 Scheffler as Ohio’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 finished 10<sup>th</sup> at the NXN Nationals Final this past season, clocking a time of 17:34.20 to earn Second Team All-American honors. Scheffler qualified for nationals by taking fifth at the NXN Midwest Regional, garnering First Team All-Region recognition. She also broke the tape at the OHSAA Division 1 state meet last fall, eclipsing the meet record in 17:01.29, in addition to running a personal-best 16:41.90 to win the Federal League Championship. She won nine of her 11 races, finished unbeaten against in-state competition and clocked Ohio’s fastest girls prep 5K of 2024.

A member of her school’s Spanish Club, Scheffler has volunteered locally as a Sunday School mentor at her church. Through her extensive involvement in 4-H, she has excelled in agriculture and animal care, earning numerous accolades at both the county and state levels. She’s also a member of the North Canton Gymnastics team as well as the Lake High School squad. “Scheffler was unbeaten through the state meet and turned in impressive results at both regionals and nationals,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “She will graduate as Ohio’s No. 2 in history, just 1.5 seconds behind the girls prep state 5K record set in 1981.”

Scheffler has maintained a weighted 4.5 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run at North Carolina 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.

Scheffler joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Evelyn Prodoehl (2023-24, Lakota West High School), Katie Clute (2022-23, Olmsted Falls High School) and Grace Hartman (2021-22 & 2020-21, Oakwood 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).