## LAKERIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 **Chloe Huyler** of **Lakeridge High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Huyler is the first Gatorade Oregon **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Lakeridge 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 Huyler as Oregon'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 captured the OSAA Class 6A state crown this past season in a meet-leading time of 17:11.6, powering the Pacers to third place in the team standings. Huyler gained national attention by winning the Nike Cross Northwest Regional title in 17:00.0. She capped her campaign by earning Third Team All-America honors with a 20th-place performance at the Nike Cross Nationals in Oregon in 17:46.5. A winner in 9 of her 10 races, she mined gold at the Rose City Championship in a seasonal-best 16:32.1.

Huyler has volunteered locally to knit blankets for the homeless and participate in canned food drives that support neighborhood food banks serving low-income and homeless individuals. She has also donated her time coaching a soccer club for elementary school students and at Oregon Dog Rescue, caring for and cleaning canines. "Chloe Huyler delivered a high school season for the record books — literally," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "While repping the Lakeridge High School singlet, she was unbeaten this past season, breaking five course records and finishing no worse than third on the all-time course lists in any of her eight high school races. She bumped up her stock on the national stage while defeating several major talents at the Nike Cross Northwest Regionals, an amazing achievement for an athlete with just two years of experience in the sport under her belt."

Huyler has maintained a weighted 4.39 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run cross country and track at the University of Notre Dame 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.

Huyler joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Emily Wisniewski (2023-24 & 2022-23, Crescent Valley High School), Kate Peters (2021-22, Lake Oswego High School) and Chloe Foerster (2020-21, Jesuit 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>.

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