

GREENVILLE HURRICANES HOMESCHOOL ASSOCIATION STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 **Ava Lindsey** of **Greenville Hurricanes Homeschool Association** is the **2024-25 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Lindsey is the first Gatorade South Carolina **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Greenville Hurricanes Homeschool Association.

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 Lindsey as South Carolina’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-6 sophomore finished 14th at the Foot Locker South Regional championships this past season to earn Second Team All-Region honors. Competing for the Greenville Hurricanes Homeschool Association, Lindsey also won the Bob Jenkins Invitational International Race last fall in addition to breaking the tape at the Starlight Invitational with a person-best clocking of 17:24.29. She won five of her seven races, finished unbeaten against in-state competition and clocked South Carolina’s fastest girls prep 5K of 2024.

A practiced violin player, Lindsey has volunteered locally by performing at an assisted living facility and by serving meals to veterans. An active member of her church community, she’s also donated her time as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her parish in addition to serving as a counselor at youth basketball camps. “It’s not often that a prep girl runs sub-17:30 in South Carolina—in fact, the last time it happened was in 2019,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “Lindsey’s showing at Foot Locker regionals demonstrates that she has the best turnover and closing speed of any high school runner in the state. She ran well against some good fields last fall.”

Lindsey, who is homeschooled, has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior 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.

Lindsey joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Alivia Cleveland (2023-24, Fort Mill High School), Caroline Lyerly (2022-23, Greenville High School), Hannah Vroon (2021-22, James Island Charter High School) and Katie Pou (2020-21, Nation Ford 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.