

## **THE WEBB SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 **Abby Faith Cheeseman** of **The Webb School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Tennessee Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Cheeseman is the first Gatorade Tennessee **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from The Webb 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 Cheeseman as Tennessee’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 senior won the TSSAA Division II Class A state meet this past season with a time of 17:22.5, dominating the pace to break the tape 137 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and lead the Feet to second place as a team. Cheeseman was among 10 girls prep runners to qualify for both national championship meets in 2024, finishing 19th at Foot Locker Nationals and 22nd at the Nike Cross Nationals Final, missing out on NXN All-American honors by 0.20 seconds. She is now a four-time Gatorade Player of the Year honoree.

A member of her school’s Honors Orchestra, Cheeseman has sung the national anthem at track and field meets, football games and the Tennessee Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Conference. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Trinity Presbyterian Church and as a Webb Student Ambassador, providing tours for prospective families. “Racing in a state that allows eighth graders to compete in the high school state championships, Abby Faith Cheeseman capped a stellar prep career in rarified air, becoming the nation’s third prep runner in history to win five state titles,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “Add to that the 10 event state titles she’s won on the track and she represents one of the most decorated distance runners in history.”

Cheeseman has maintained a weighted 4.65 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a written letter of athletic aid to run cross country and track at the University of Virginia 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.

Four-time winner Cheeseman joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Jenna Hutchins (2020-21, Science Hill 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).