

**BOERNE CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 **Elizabeth Leachman** of **Boerne Champion High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade Texas Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Leachman is the first Gatorade Texas **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Boerne Champion 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 Leachman as Texas’ 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-4 junior won the Foot Locker National Cross Country Championships title this past season, clocking a time of 17:31.1 to become just the fifth girls competitor to earn the title in consecutive years. Leachman also broke the tape at the UIL Class 5A state meet with a time of 17:14.8, leading the Chargers to a seventh-place finish. The state’s returning Gatorade Player of the Year, she took third at the Nike Cross Nationals Final in 17:13.7, making her one of only two individuals to earn double First Team All-America accolades last fall.

Leachman is a devoted member of her church community, on behalf of which she has participated in multiple community service endeavors. “For the second consecutive year, Elizabeth Leachman overcame late-season health issues and summoned the resilience to emerge as a national champion,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “As physically gifted as she’s proven to be over the years, it’s her extreme mental fortitude and excellent support structure that has twice helped her overcome injury and earn her biggest victories.”

Leachman has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her senior 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.

Two-time winner Leachman joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Isabel Conde de Frankenberg (2022-23, Cedar Park High School), Natalie Cook (2021-22, Flower Mound High School) and Brynn Brown (2020-21, Guyer 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).