

HERBERT HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 **Maysen Fletcher** of **Herbert Hoover High School** is the **2024-25 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Fletcher is the first Gatorade West Virginia **Girls Cross Country** Player of the Year to be chosen from Herbert Hoover 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 Fletcher as West Virginia'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 freshman raced to the bronze medal at the national RunningLane Cross Country Championships this past season with a personal-best time of 16:59.10 to earn First Team All-American honors. Fletcher broke the tape at the Class AA state meet, leading the Huskies to sixth place as a team. She was 10th at the Great American XC Festival—the state’s top finisher at the event.

Fletcher has volunteered locally on behalf of the Charleston Humane Society, the Special Olympics and as part of multiple community service initiatives as a Girl Scout. She has also donated her time with the Charleston Distance Run, the Elk River Running Club and the Veterans Program at Elkview Middle School. “Fletcher has been on distance-running folks’ radar since middle school and she didn’t disappoint in her scholastic debut season,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “She went sub-17 to take bronze at a national title race and outkicked the field at states.”

Fletcher has maintained an A average in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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.

Fletcher joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Alyssa Sauro (2023-24, Williamstown High School) and Irene Riggs (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Morgantown 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.