

DEERFIELD/CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Emmerson Drobac of Deerfield/Cambridge High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Drobac is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Deerfield/Cambridge 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 Drobac as Wisconsin'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-3 junior won the WIAA Division 2 state meet this past season with a meet-record clocking of 17:38.9 for 5K. Drobac also earned Third Team All-Region honors by taking 15<sup>th</sup> at the Nike Cross Heartland Regional championships with a personal-best 17:37.3. She won six of her eight races in 2024.

A talented singer chosen to perform in the Trailways Conference Honors Choir, Drobac has volunteered locally as an ASL translator at church services. She has also donated her time as a counselor at youth basketball camps. "Emmerson Drobac continues racing her way into Wisconsin's elite prep distance-running club," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "She claimed her first title with a state meet-record performance, capping a sparkling and unbeaten campaign against in-state foes."

Drobac has maintained a 3.96 GPA 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.

Drobac joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Nora Gremban (2023-24, Northland Pines High School), Sara Mlodik (2022-23, D.C. Everest Senior High School), Lauren Pansegrau (2021-22, Middleton High School) and Kora Malecek (2020-21, Onalaska 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).

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