

CHEYENNE EAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED GATORADE WYOMING 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 Maggie Madsen of Cheyenne East High School is the 2024-25 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Player of the Year. Madsen is the first Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Cheyenne East 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 Madsen as Wyoming'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-4 sophomore took seventh at the NXN Northwest Regional this past season, clocking a personal-best time of 17:41.50 to garner First Team All-Region honors. Madsen broke the tape at the Class 4A state meet, leading the Thunderbirds to a ninth place finish. She won eight of her 10 races last fall and was the state's top finisher at the Dave Sanders Invitational in Colorado, where she crossed the line fourth.

A member of the Cheyenne Mayor's Youth Council, Madsen has volunteered locally on behalf of the Cheyenne Youth Day of Giving, the Greenway Cleanup, the Botanic Gardens and Needs Inc. She has also donated her time as a track meet assistant and by fundraising for Friday Food Bags. "Madsen won eight of 10 races and clocked the state's fastest girls 5K in 2024," said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. "She also capped her season as an individual state champion."

Madsen has maintained a weighted 4.11 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.

Madsen joins recent Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Madison Antonino (2023-24, Jackson Hole High School), Sydney Morrell (2022-23, Cheyenne Central High School), Kate Brigham (2021-22, Jackson Hole High School) and Sydney Thorvaldson (2020-21, Rawlins 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.

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