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**GRAND BLANC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Grant Fisher of Grand Blanc High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Fisher is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Grand Blanc High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the racecourse, distinguishes Fisher as Michigan's best high school boys cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Fisher joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-00, 2000-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-8, 135-pound junior raced to the national title this past season with a time of 15:07 at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships. Fisher won the Division 1 state title in 15:13.7 and captured the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championship in 15:02. He was also first at the Portage Invitational, the Jackson Invitational, the Nike/Holly/Duane Raffin Festival of Races, the KLAA Lakes Conference Championships and the Regional Championships.

Also receiving All-State Honorable Mention recognition in soccer this past fall, Fisher has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor in his school, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a winter coat drive and youth sports programs.

"Grant Fisher is a special athlete," said Grand Blanc head coach Ed Stanbury. "I've coached many great athletes over the last 30 years, but he is the best that has ever come through the cross country and track programs. I'm looking forward to seeing what new limits he will reach."

Fisher will begin his 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 that sanction high school 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Fisher joins Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Nick Raymond (2012-13, Erie-Mason High School), Evan Chiplock (2011-12, Heritage High School), Caleb Rhynard (2010-11, Shepherd High School), Michael Atchoo (2009-10, Troy), Stephen Walker (2008-09, H.H. Dow), and Maverick Darling (2007-08, Ovid-Elsie) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit www.gatorade.com/poy.

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