

Contact: Kelsey Rhoney (312-729- 3685)

**GALENA CITY SCHOOLS STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 12, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Jacob Moos of Galena City Schools as its 2017-18 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Moos is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Galena City Schools.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Moos as Alaska'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, Moos joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Prep., San Luis Obispo, Calif.), Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury, Conn.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior raced to the Division 2 individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:33. Moos also broke the tape first at the Region VI championships, the Palmer Invitational, the Interior Invitational and the Delta Invitational, while placing seventh at the George Fox Classic.

A talented biathlete, Moos has donated his time assisting the elderly in his community and has volunteered locally on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Jacob's greatest assets as a runner are his work ethic, his determination and his positive attitude," said Galena coach Jon Korta. "He knows how to set a goal for himself and is willing to do what it takes to accomplish those goals. My biggest challenge as his coach is holding him back from trying to do too much."

Moos has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at the University of Alaska-Anchorage 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Moos joins Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Gus Schumacher (2016-17, Service High School), Kaleb Korta (2015-16, Galena City Schools), Levi Thomet (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Kodiak High School), Miles Knotek (2011-12, Seward High School), Silas Talbot (2010-11, Service High School), Jacob Kirk (2009-10, Grace Christian School), and Trevor Dunbar (2008-09 & 2007-08, Kodiak) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Moos will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

###