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**KODIAK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 17, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Levi Thomet of Kodiak High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Thomet is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Kodiak 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 Thomet 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, Thomet 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-6 sophomore raced to the Class 4A individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:11, leading the Bears to third place as a team. Thomet also won the Region 3 Championship meet, the Skyview Invitational, the Palmer Invitational and the Bartlett Invitational.

Thomet has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. Also a hockey standout and an accomplished pianist, Thomet has served on his school's student council.

"Levi is ambitious, and a very hard worker," said Kodiak head coach Marcus Dunbar. "He is a tough competitor who welcomes good competition and is always looking to improve."

Thomet will begin his 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 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.

Thomet joins Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year 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.

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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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