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**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 Jacob Shiohira of Bentonville High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Shiohira is the second Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Bentonville 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 Shiohira as Arkansas'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, Shiohira 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-7, 145-pound sophomore raced to the Class 7A individual state title this past season with a time of 15:37.8, leading the Tigers to a state championship as a team. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Shiohira earned seventh place at the Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships, crossing the line in 15:29.09. He also qualified for the Nike Cross Nationals Final, earning 125<sup>th</sup> place in 19:00.

Shiohira has maintained a 4.1 GPA in the classroom. A talented saxophonist and clarinet player, Shiohira is a devoted member of his church community and has volunteered locally as a youth soccer coach.

"Jacob Shiohira was definitely the best runner I saw this year in the state of Arkansas," said Rogers High head coach Carlton Efurd. "He was extremely impressive and I don't think there is anyone else who performed as well as he did."

Shiohira 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.

Shiohira joins Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Will Aenchbacher (2011-12, Bentonville High School), Christian Heymsfield (2010-11, Elkins High School), Christopher Marchman (2009-10, Sheridan), Cameron Efurd (2008-09, Rogers), and Aaron Hamilton (2007-08, Rogers) 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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