

**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Henry Wynne of Staples High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Wynne is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Staples 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 Wynne as Connecticut'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, Wynne 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 6-foot-3 senior raced to the State Open championship this past season with a time of 15:49. Wynne also captured the Class LL state title, also in 15:49, and finished first at the Wickham Park Invitational, the Windham Invitational and the Fairfield County Interscholastic Athletic Conference Championships.

Wynne has maintained a 3.20 GPA in the classroom. A student ambassador in his school, he has volunteered locally on behalf of community road races.

"You won't find anyone who works harder or is more dedicated to reaching his goals," said Staples head coach Laddie Lawrence. "He's established several school records and he's knocking on the door of several more."

Wynne has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia beginning 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.

Wynne joins Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Connor Rog (2011-12 & 2010-11, Fairfield College Preparatory School), John Raneri (2009-10 & 2008-09, New Fairfield), and Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury) 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).

###