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**BARR-REEVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 17, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Connor Sorrells of Barr-Reeve High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Indiana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Sorrells is the first Gatorade Indiana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Barr-Reeve 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 Sorrells as Indiana'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, Sorrells 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 individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:21.3. Sorrells also won his sectional, regional and semi-state championships, and finished first at the South Knox Invitational, the Prides Creek Invitational and the Barr-Reeve Invitational.

Sorrells has maintained a 4.07 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church youth group and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a school anti-drug program.

"Connor has shown great commitment, sacrifice, discipline and structure throughout the last four years to make himself an elite runner," said Barr-Reeve coach JayR Perkins. "He's been a blessing to coach.

Sorrells has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at Furman University 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.

Sorrells joins Gatorade Indiana Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Futsum Zeinasellassie (2011-12 & 2010-11, North Central High School), Tyler Byrne (2009-10, North Harrison), Drew Shields (2008-09, Fishers), and Mike Fout (2007-08, LaPorte) 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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