

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Thomson of Holy Cross High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Thomson is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Holy Cross 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 Thomson as Kentucky'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, Thomson 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-9, 145-pound senior earned fifth place at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships this past season, crossing the line with a time of 15:14. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Thomson finished fourth at the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 14:58. He also raced to his second straight Class 1A individual state championship, breaking the tape in 15:21.40.

Thomson has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul charities and has served as an elected member of his school's student government.

"In the 29 years that I have been coaching, I can say that Jacob Thomson is the most intense and competitive runner ever to wear a Holy Cross High uniform," said Holy Cross High head coach Richard Reynolds. "While I am very proud of his accomplishments, I am even prouder of his attitude of wanting to work harder than anyone else. He is focused and driven and he always looks for challenges that will help him improve."

Thomson remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Thomson joins Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Evan Ehrenheim (2010-11, Daviess County High School), Ryan Eaton (2009-10 & 2008-09, Greenwood), and Gordy Dooley (2007-08, St. Henry District) 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).

###