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**ERIE-MASON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Nick Raymond of Erie-Mason High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Raymond is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Erie-Mason 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 Raymond as Michigan'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, Raymond 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-11 senior raced to the Division 3 individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:05.1. Raymond took third at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships in 15:02 and finished 20th nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships. He also earned a victory at the Mid-East Meet of Champions.

Raymond has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and on behalf of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"Nick has an unparalleled work ethic," said Erie-Mason coach Alison Meisner. "He's extremely coachable and willing to do whatever it takes to achieve and surpass his goals. He rarely makes a mental mistake during a race, and if he does, he learns from it and it's never repeated."

Raymond 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.

Raymond joins Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Evan Chiplock (2011-12, Heritage High School), Caleb Rhynard (2010-11, Shepherd High School), Michael Atchoo (2009-10, Troy), Stephen Walker (2008-09, H.H. Dow), and Maverick Darling (2007-08, Ovid-Elsie) 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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