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**RENO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Jordan Cardenas of Reno High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Cardenas is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Reno 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 Cardenas as Nevada'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, Cardenas 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-10 senior raced to the Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:15.9. Cardenas also captured victories at the North Region Championships, the Nevada Twilight Classic and the Division 2 race at the Stanford Invitational.

Cardenas has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. A group leader in his church community, he has volunteered as a Spanish tutor in his school.

"Jordan always sets his goals very high," said Reno coach Jim Parker. "He's a real student of the sport, he prepares himself well and he takes responsibility for his running."

Cardenas has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at the University of Portland 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.

Cardenas joins Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Nick Hartle (2011-12 & 2010-11, Centennial High School), Wade Meddles (2009-10 & 2008-09, Sierra Lutheran), and Bryan Tibaduiza (2007-08, Galena) 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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