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**STILLWATER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Noah Gade of Stillwater High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Gade is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Stillwater 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 Gade as Oklahoma'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, Gade 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, 123-pound senior raced to the Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:30.84, leading the Pioneers to 10th place as a team. Gade was the top Oklahoma finisher at the 2012 Foot Locker South Region championships, placing eighth in 15:03, becoming the first Oklahoma runner to qualify for the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships since 1996. He finished 36th in country at nationals.

Gade has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A National Merit Scholar semifinalist, he has volunteered locally as a mentor to both an elementary school student and a Special Olympics participant. He has also donated his time as part of a community beautification project.

"Noah stands alone at the top," said Laura Clay, Westmoore High head coach. "He is a great runner and very deserving."

Gade has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at Oklahoma State 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.

Gade joins Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Tanner Satterthwaite (2011-12, Norman High School), Andrew Leahey (2010-11, Plainview High School), Toby Bothwell (2009-10, Westmoore), Taylor Monaghan (2008-09, Union), and Steven Baker (2007-08, Union) 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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