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**HARDIN VALLEY ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Aaron Templeton of Hardin Valley Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Templeton is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Hardin Valley Academy.

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 Templeton as Tennessee'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, Templeton 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-7, 125-pound junior raced to the Class AAA individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:52.67, leading the Hawks to a third-place finish as a team. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Templeton earned third place at the Foot Locker South Championships, crossing the line in 14:54. He also qualified for the Foot Locker National Championships, where he finished seventh in 15:29.

Templeton has maintained a 3.06 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a hospital and has helped organize food baskets for families in need during the holidays.

"Aaron Templeton's attention to detail is better than any runner I have ever had," said Hardin Valley Academy head coach Bryan Brown. "He sets time aside for each and every detail of his training and school work. He was easily the best runner in the state of Tennessee this year."

Templeton will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Templeton joins Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Daniel Peters (2011-12, Montgomery Bell Academy), Michael Peters (2010-11, Montgomery Bell Academy), Brandon Lord (2009-10, Baylor School), Bill Matthews (2008-09, Baylor School), and Sean Keveren (2007-08, Brentwood) 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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