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**MISHAWAKA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 10, 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 Anna Rohrer of Mishawaka High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Rohrer is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Mishawaka 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 Rohrer as Indiana's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Rohrer 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.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-5 sophomore raced to a national title at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships this past season, with a time of 17:25. Rohrer also won the individual state championship with a meet-record time of 17:13.2 and captured the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships in a course-record 16:54. She won her conference, sectional, regional and semi-state championships, and finished first at the New Prairie Invitational, the Northridge Invitational and the Niles Viking Stampede.

Rohrer has maintained a 4.21 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician, she has volunteered locally on behalf of area nursing homes and an elementary school drug awareness program.

"What Anna has accomplished this season, her first full season of cross country, is nothing short of astonishing," said Mishawaka head coach Chris Kowalewski. "She's a special talent, with an incredible work ethic and attitude."

Rohrer will begin her junior 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.

Rohrer joins Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Ashley Erba (2011-12, Warsaw Community High School), Waverly Neer (2010-11 & 2009-10, Culver Academies), Sarah Higgens (2008-09, Center Grove), and Alex Banfich (2007-08, Culver Academies) 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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