

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Bailey Davis of Assumption High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Davis is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Assumption 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 Davis as Kentucky'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, Davis 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-7 junior raced to the Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:12.72, leading the Rockets to a state title as a team. The 2012 Kentucky Track and Cross County Coaches Association Class 3A Runner of the Year, Davis earned sixth place at the Nike Cross Nationals Southeast Regional championships, finishing in 17:44.8. She also qualified for the 2012 Nike Cross Nationals Final, crossing the line in 20:31 to take 36th place.

Davis has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, the Beta Club and the Math Team, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a peer leader at her school.

"Bailey Davis is a tremendous athlete," said Eastern High head coach Michael Horan. "She was the top runner in our classification throughout the year and she posted some superb times at top meets throughout the country. No other runner comes close in my book."

Davis will begin her 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.

Davis joins Gatorade Kentucky Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Cassidy Hale (2011-12, duPont Manual High School), Emma Brink (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2007-08, Sacred Heart Academy) and Kaitlin Snapp (2008-09, Danville), Sacred Heart Academy) 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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