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**GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Julia Bos of Grand Rapids Christian High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Bos is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Grand Rapids Christian 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 Bos as Michigan'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, Bos 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-6 senior raced to the Div. 2 individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:20.4, leading the Eagles to third place as a team. Bos was undefeated during the season, including victories at the MSU Spartan Invitational and the Portage Invitational.

Bos has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Women at Risk, International as well as a food pantry program for the homeless.

"Julia is a gifted runner with an incredible work ethic," said Grand Rapids Christian head coach Doug Jager. "She can run hard for a long time. The only issues we ever had was getting her to do less."

Bos remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Bos joins Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Erin Finn (2011-12, West Bloomfield High School), Gabrielle Anzalone (2010-11, Grand Blanc High School), Megan Goethals (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rochester), and Katie Haines (2007-08, Rockford) 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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