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**PASS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Regen McGee of Pass Christian High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. McGee is the second Gatorade Mississippi Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Pass 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 McGee as Mississippi'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, McGee 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 freshman raced to a second consecutive Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:07, leading the Pirates to fourth place as a team. McGee also captured first place at the Amateur Athletic Union National Championships in 18:47.28. She won nine regular-season meets this past fall, including Mississippi College's Watson Ford Invitational.

Also a track standout, McGee has maintained an A average in the classroom and has served on her school's student council. A member of the local National Beta Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapters, she has volunteered locally on behalf her church community.

"Regen McGee shows the tenacity and determination a great athlete must possess," said Pass Christian head coach Tim Ladner. "She has as much will as she does talent."

McGee will begin her sophomore 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.

McGee joins Gatorade Mississippi Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Christina Daniels (2011-12, Tupelo High School), Elisabeth Gaillet (2010-11, St. Andrew's Episcopal School) and Cory McGee (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08 Pass Christian), 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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