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**PLAINVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Alex Davis of Plainview High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Davis is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Plainview 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 Oklahoma'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 senior raced to her second straight Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 11:02 over the 3,200-meter course, breaking the tape 27 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Indians to the state title as a team for the second year in a row. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Davis placed fourth at the Foot Locker South Regional championships and 26th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships. She also took fifth in the Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships and 38th at the 2012 Nike Cross Nationals Final.

Davis has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Plainview High student council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, as a youth mentor and as part of a fundraiser to benefit the Mercy Memorial Cancer Center.

"Alex Davis had the best times all year," said Laura Clay, head coach of Westmoore High. "She is a great runner and is very deserving."

Davis has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at Baylor University beginning 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 Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Noemi Hernandez (2010-11, Westmoore High School), Jori Davis (2009-10, Piedmont), Andrea Lewis (2008-09, Bishop Kelley) and Sara Vaughn (2007-08, Union) 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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