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**LADYSMITH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 10, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Andrea Ostenso of Ladysmith High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Ostenso is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Ladysmith 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 Ostenso as Wisconsin'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, Ostenso 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-2 senior won a Division 3 individual state championship this past season with a time of 14:34.59. A 2012 First Team All-State selection, Ostenso was the fastest Wisconsin competitor at the 2012 Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships, crossing the line in 18:01 to capture 12th place.

Ostenso has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society as well as the Math Team and president of her school's student council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Red Cross and as a vacation bible school counselor.

"Andrea Ostenso excels in both athletics and academics at our school," said Ladysmith athletic director Rick Vollendorf. "She has fought through injuries and persevered like a champion and is one of the brightest, most diligent students I have ever taught."

Ostenso has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at Northwestern 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.

Ostenso joins Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Molly Seidel (2011-12, University Lake School), Allison Woodward (2010-11, Notre Dame de la Baie Academy), Marya Haegler (2009-10, Winnebago Lutheran Academy), Morgan Sickels (2008-09, Catholic Memorial), and Ashley Beutler (2007-08, New Glarus) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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