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**DAVISS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 8, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Whitney O'Bryan of Daviess County High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. O'Bryan is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Daviess County 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 O'Bryan 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, O'Bryan 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-5 senior raced to the Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:09, leading the Panthers to third place as a team. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, O'Bryan earned 22nd place at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships, crossing the line in 17:49.

O'Bryan has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Beta Club and the Spanish Club. She has also volunteered locally as a peer tutor.

"Whitney O'Bryan is an outstanding individual with great leadership skills," said Daviess County High head coach Mark Fortney. "She is a very personable young lady with great credentials in the classroom as well as in the sport of running."

O'Bryan 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.

O'Bryan joins Gatorade Kentucky Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Bailey Davis (2012-13, Assumption High School), 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), 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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