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**PHILLIPS ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Anoush Shehadeh of Phillips Academy as its 2013-14 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Shehadeh is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Phillips Academy.

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 Shehadeh as Massachusetts'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, Shehadeh 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-3 junior captured second place at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships this past season with a time of 17:32.3. Shehadeh also qualified for the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, where she finished fourth, crossing the line in 17:35 to earn All-American honors. A two-time New England Preparatory School Track Association individual champion in cross country, she captured her second straight NEPSTA Division I title this past fall, breaking the tape in 17:38 and leading the Big Blues to third place as a team.

Shehadeh has maintained a 4.5 GPA on a 6-point scale in the classroom. An accomplished oboist and guitarist, she has volunteered locally as a math and science tutor and as a childcare volunteer.

"Anoush Shehadeh is one of the strongest and most consistent athletes to come through our running program," said Phillips Academy head coach Rebecca Hession. "She has incredible self-discipline and a true passion for competition. She pushed herself to new limits during the interscholastic season, which prepared her to face regional and national competition with poise and confidence."

Shehadeh will begin her senior 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.

Shehadeh joins Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Catarina Rocha (2012-13 & 2011-12, Peabody High School), Ariel Beauregard-Breton (2010-11, Deerfield Academy), Andrea Keklak (2009-10, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional), and Emily Jones (2008-09 & 2007-08, The Bromfield School), 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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