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**BRECKENRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Kirsten Olling of Breckenridge High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Olling is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Breckenridge 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 Olling as Michigan'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, Olling 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-1 senior raced to her fourth consecutive Division 4 individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:44.9, leading the Huskies to second place as a team. Olling also won league and regional championships and broke the tape at the Delta Invitational, the Bullock Creek Lancer Invitational, the Alma College Invitational, the Holly Invitational, the Div. 4 race of the Portage Invitational and the Div. 3 and 4 race of the Spartan Invitational. She was eighth at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships in 17:52.

Olling has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Red Cross blood-donation drives.

"Kirsten has run every day since starting high school, and makes sacrifices to accomplish the goals she has set for herself and the team," said Breckenridge coach Royce Humm. "She leads by example and wears her heart on her sleeve. She pushes her limits every day."

Olling 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.

Olling joins Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Julia Bos (2012-13, Grand Rapids Christian High School), Erin Finn (2011-12, West Bloomfield High School), Gabrielle Anzalone (2010-11, Grand Blanc High School), Megan Goethals (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rochester), and Katie Haines (2007-08, Rockford) 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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