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**CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Jordan Jacob of Century High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Jacob is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Century 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 Jacob as North Dakota'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, Jacob 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-8 junior distance runner won the Class A individual state championship with a time of 14:02.20 this past season, leading the Patriots to second place as a team. A four-time Class A All-State performer, Jacob placed 16th at the Nike Cross Nationals Heartland Regional championships in 18:22.30. She also captured the Western Dakota Conference Championships individual title this past fall and has placed among the top four competitors at the Class A state meet each of the past four seasons.

Jacob has maintained a 4.00 GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 1 in her graduating class. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered at elementary school cross-country meets and as part of the inaugural Apple Dash to benefit the Bismarck Public Schools Foundation.

"She's a very hard worker all year around," Shane Wahlstrom, head coach of rival Williston High. "I actually helped coach Century's boys cross country team a few years ago, and Jordan was running for the girls at that time. I saw nothing but great things from her, and we can see it definitely paying off."

Jacob 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.

Jacob joins Gatorade North Dakota Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Brittany Brown Otter (2012-13, Bismarck High School), Tarin Lachowitz (2011-12, 2010-11 & 2009-10, Davies High School), Alissa Mears (2008-09, West Fargo), and Lindsay Anderson (2007-08, Leeds) 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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