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**BROOKFIELD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Elizabeth Flatley of Brookfield Central High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Flatley is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Brookfield Central 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 Flatley 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, Flatley 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-4 senior raced to a Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a time of 14:11.11, leading the Lancers to a fifth-place finish as a team. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, Flatley was the fastest Wisconsin competitor at the 2013 Nike Cross Nationals Heartland Regional championships, crossing the line in 11th place in 18:12.8.

Flatley has maintained a 4.08 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she is an accomplished violinist and has volunteered locally as a peer leader and on behalf of multiple fundraiser drives to benefit cancer research. She has also donated her time as her school's track & field and cross country web site manager.

"Although Elizabeth Flatley was always a consistently good runner in the past, she became a great runner this fall," said Matt Roe, head coach at Sun Prairie High. "She seemed to have a new drive and determination that couldn't be denied. When I saw her early year times and then how she continued them through the season, I knew she would be the runner to beat at the state meet."

Flatley has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at the University of California at Berkeley beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Flatley joins Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Andrea Ostenso (2012-13, Ladysmith High School), 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.

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