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**KODIAK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 16, 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 Levi Thomet of Kodiak High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Thomet is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Kodiak 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 Thomet as Alaska's best high school boys cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Thomet 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.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7, 128-pound junior raced to the Class 4A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:10.8, leading the Bears to third place as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Thomet finished 16th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:40.3. He also earned victories at the Palmer Invitational, the Frank Dieckgraff Invitational, the Skyview Invitational and the Region III Championships.

Thomet has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth hockey and running programs.

"Levi is an exceptional athlete who is both humble and confident at the same time," said Kodiak head coach Marcus Dunbar. "He's very hard-working and ambitious. I think we can expect great things from him in the future."

Thomet will begin his 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.

Two time winner Thomet joins Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Miles Knotek (2011-12, Seward High School), Silas Talbot (2010-11, Service High School), Jacob Kirk (2009-10, Grace Christian School), and Trevor Dunbar (2008-09 & 2007-08, Kodiak) 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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