

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**BENTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 Jacob Shiohira of Bentonville High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Shiohira is the second Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Bentonville 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 Shiohira as Arkansas'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, Shiohira 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, 145-pound junior won the 2013 Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships, breaking the tape in 15:28.69. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year also earned 13th place at the Foot Locker South Regional championships, crossing the line in 15:03. A three-time First Team All-State selection, he placed second at the Class 7A state meet with a time of 15:18. Shiohira qualified for the 2013 Nike Cross Nationals Final, earning 69th place in 16:00.

Shiohira has maintained a 4.16 GPA in the classroom. A talented saxophonist and clarinet player, he is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, the Young Republicans Club and has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity.

"Jacob Shiohira is an exceptional distance runner," said Michelle Fyfe, head coach at Fayetteville High. "He gives 100 percent in every race and is always very respectful and humble."

Shiohira 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 Shiohira joins Gatorade Arkansas Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Will Aenchbacher (2011-12, Bentonville High School), Christian Heymsfield (2010-11, Elkins High School), Christopher Marchman (2009-10, Sheridan), Cameron Efurd (2008-09, Rogers), and Aaron Hamilton (2007-08, Rogers) 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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