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BUTLER TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Patrick Gregory of Butler Traditional High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Gregory is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Butler Traditional 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 Gregory as Kentucky'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, Gregory 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 6-foot, 140-pound senior raced to a Class 3A individual state title this past season with a time of 15:55.18. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, Gregory earned 24th place at the Foot Locker South Regional championships, crossing the line in 15:16. He also was the fastest Kentucky competitor at the Trinity/Valkyrie Invitational, finishing eighth in 15:26.8.

Gregory has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's Beta Club, he has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society.

"Patrick Gregory is strong and confident as a runner yet remains humble and cordial," said Chad Waggoner, head coach at Trinity High. "He dominated the state this year in cross country and while he went to challenge himself against stronger competition from other states, he always remained loyal and dedicated to his Kentucky roots."

Gregory will attend Dartmouth College this fall, where he will compete in cross country and track and field.

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.

Gregory joins Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jacob Thomson (2012-13 & 2011-12, Holy Cross High School), Evan Ehrenheim (2010-11, Daviess County High School), Ryan Eaton (2009-10 & 2008-09, Greenwood), and Gordy Dooley (2007-08, St. Henry District) 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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