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SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Zachary Albright of Saint Paul's School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Albright is the first Gatorade Louisiana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Saint Paul's 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 Albright as Louisiana'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, Albright 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-10 senior distance runner was the All-Metro Co-Runner of the Year this past season as named by the New Orleans Advocate and captured 22nd place at the Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships with a time of 16:00.30. Albright's times of 14:41.12 at the Northshore Metro Championships and 15:51.90 at the Gulf Coast Cross Country Stampede represented Louisiana's fastest prep performances of the fall in the 3-mile and 5K run, respectively. He also raced to a runner-up finish at the Class 5A state meet in 15:20.66, leading the Wolves to the state title as a team. Albright finished 37th at the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 15:30.

Albright has maintained a 4.53 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta mathematics society, he has volunteered on behalf of his church, the Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, the Look Good Feel Better cancer patient support initiative and Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza's inspirational retreats. Albright has also donated his time as a peer tutor and youth running instructor.

"I've been truly blessed to have a student-athlete such as Zachary Albright," said Saint Paul's head coach Terry Chatham. "He is a superior student in the classroom as well as a self-motivated, determined individual with unparalleled commitment to the team and the sport. He is a natural leader and has been a valued member of our team for the past four years as a fiercely talented competitor. He is a true student of the sport and has been a pleasure and honor to coach."

Albright will attend Princeton University this fall, where he will continue his running career.

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.

Albright joins Gatorade Louisiana Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Enrique Soto (2012-13, Lakeside High School), Cole Stafford (2011-12, Catholic High School), Matthew Rice (2010-11, Runnels High School), Philip Primeaux (2009-10 & 2008-09, Catholic), and Philipp Goettert (2007-08, Baton Rouge Magnet) 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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