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COE-BROWN NORTHWOOD ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Jeremy Brassard of Coe-Brown Northwood Academy as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Brassard is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy.

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 Brassard as New Hampshire'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, Brassard 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-11 senior distance runner raced to a second consecutive Meet of Champions individual title with a time of 15:50 this past season, leading the Bears to third place as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Brassard also won a second straight Division II individual championship in 15:51. The two-time Runner of the Year as named by the Union Leader, Concord Monitor, Foster's Daily Democrat and New Hampshire Cross Country Coaches Association, Brassard captured 10th place at the New England Cross Country Championships in 15:48.10. He took 22nd at the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast Regional championships in 16:18.7.

Brassard has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as part of food drives for the needy and community cleanup efforts, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America, the Special Olympics, Court Appointed Special Advocates and The Way Home, an affordable housing non-profit.

"Beyond the obvious data that shows him being New Hampshire's top boys' runner, he's an example of sportsmanship and positive character," said Dave Irving, head coach of rival Merrimack Valley High. "Jeremy has shown nothing but the utmost respect for all athletes I've seen him interact with. Any desire to win is immediately set aside upon crossing the finish line, and he's often congratulating finishers from second to 100th place. He is absolutely the kind of runner I would love to coach on my own team."

Brassard has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois beginning 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 Brassard joins Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Colton Ham (2011-12, Merrimack Valley High School), Samuel Gagnon (2010-11, Manchester Central High School), Eric Jenkins (2009-10, Portsmouth), Eric Malnati (2008-09, Fall Mountain Regional), and Alex McGrath (2007-08, ConVal) 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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