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**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Mike McClemens of Christian Brothers Academy as its 2013-14 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. McClemens is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Christian Brothers 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 McClemens as New Jersey'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, McClemens 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, 140-pound senior won the state Meet of Champions this past season with a time of 15:25.84, leading the Colts to the state title as a team. McClemens also won the Non-Public A state title in 15:55.61, finished third at the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast Regional championships and took 14th nationally at the NXN Final, where he paced the team to a second-place finish overall.

McClemens has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. A member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, McClemens has volunteered locally assisting the elderly.

"He's been a leader for our team since his freshman year," said Christian Brothers coach Chris Bennett. "He's made the program a stronger one through his efforts on and off the rails. We will sorely miss his presence next year."

McClemens will attend Columbia University 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.

McClemens joins Gatorade New Jersey Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Edward Cheserek (2012-13, St. Benedict's Prep.), Tim Ball (2011-12, Piscataway High School), Jim Rosa (2010-11, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North), Joe Rosa (2009-10, West Windsor-Plainsboro North), Tyler Udland (2008-09, Millburn), and Brandon Jarrett (2007-08, St. Benedict's Prep) 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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