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**BOARDMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 **Mark Hadley of Boardman High School** as its **2013-14 Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year**. Hadley is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Boardman 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 Hadley as Ohio'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, Hadley 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, 150-pound senior raced to the Division I individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:10. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Hadley earned 18th place at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships, crossing the line in 15:37. He completed an undefeated regular season and set a course record at the Boardman Spartan Invitational, breaking the tape in 15:07.8

Hadley has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is ranked first in his graduating class. A member of the National Honor Society and the Link Crew, he has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Mark Hadley was hands down the most dominating runner in the state of Ohio this year," said Brian Sabol, head coach at Solon High. "His success was well-deserved and he worked and trained tirelessly and earned everything he accomplished. He is a very mature, intelligent and respectful young man."

Hadley has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at Furman University 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.

Hadley joins Gatorade Ohio Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Sam Wharton (2012-13, Tiptecanoe High School), Sam Praker (2011-12, Versailles High School), Michael Brajdic (2010-11, Bay High School), Zach Wills (2009-10 & 2008-09, Mason), and Donny Roys (2007-08, Medina) 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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