

Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**PORTER-GAUD SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Brent Demarest of Porter-Gaud School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Demarest is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Porter-Gaud 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 Demarest as South Carolina'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, Demarest 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-9 senior distance runner raced to a fourth consecutive South Carolina Independent Schools Association individual state championship this past season with a time of 14:46.85, leading the Cyclones to the state title as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Demarest captured eighth place at the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 14:53. Also the three-time Lowcountry Runner of the Year as named by The Post & Courier, he took 28th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:54.

Also a track and swimming standout, Demarest has maintained a 4.05 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has served in his school's student government and participated in the state's Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. A member of the National Honor Society, he has also volunteered on behalf of Lowcountry Orphan Relief and as a youth swimming instructor.

"Brent is not just the best runner in South Carolina this year, but probably the best one this century," said Steve Conway, head coach of rival Spartanburg Christian Academy. "It's hard to argue with Porter-Gaud's incredible success in every sport in which he is involved. His teams have never failed to win a state title during his high school career in cross country, swimming or track. Brent represents the best part of prep sports, showing excellence in everything he does."

Demarest has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia 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 Demarest joins Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Roland Hakes (2011-12 & 2010-11, Dutch Fork High School), Aaron Ramirez (2009-10 & 2008-09, Woodmont), and Luke Lovelace (2007-08, Chapin) 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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