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**MADISON WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Olin Hacker of Madison West High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Hacker is the second Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Madison West 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 Hacker as Wisconsin'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, Hacker 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-7, 125-pound junior raced to the Division I individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:46.19. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, Hacker took 12th at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships, crossing the line in 15:29. He also earned second place at the Roy Griak Invitational, finishing in 15:33.40.

Hacker has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is ranked first in his graduating class. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the University of Wisconsin Hospital, at an ice skating rink and as a youth running coach.

"Olin Hacker has taken it upon himself to try to become the best he can be," said Madison West head coach Tom Kaufman. "This has manifested itself in his school work, his community work and his running. He is truly the consummate student-athlete."

Hacker will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Hacker joins Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Ryan Kromer (2012-13, Hudson High School), Chandler Diffie (2011-12, LaFollette High School), Dan Schubert (2010-11, Appleton East High School), Marcus Paulson (2009-10, Hamilton), Brett Kelly (2008-09, West), and Elliot Krause (2007-08, Appleton North) 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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