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**SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 8, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Taylor Knibb of Sidwell Friends School as its 2014-15 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Knibb is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Sidwell Friends 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 Knibb as District of Columbia's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Knibb 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.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 junior raced to first place at the D.C. State Athletic Association Championships this past season with a course-record time of 19:37, leading the Fighting Quakers to a team title. Knibb also won the Maryland/D.C. Private School Championships and the Varsity B race at the Glory Days Invitational. She was second at the Independent School League championships and crossed the line in 21st at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships.

Knibb has maintained an A average in the classroom. Also a talented swimmer and triathlete, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility.

"Taylor is incredibly talented, but I believe a lot of her success comes from her work ethic and drive," said Sidwell head coach Gaby Grebski. "Her commitment to training, both in running and in the pool, is somewhat unrivaled. She is not afraid of working hard or being challenged by a workout."

Knibb will begin her 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.

Knibb joins Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Megan Wilson (2013-14, Sidwell Friends School), Emily Kaplan (2012-13, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), Polly Terzian (2011-12, National Cathedral School), Grace Carr (2010-11, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), Marisa Repka (2009-10, Sidwell Friends School), Moira Ryan (2008-09, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School), and Juashaunna Kelly (2007-08, Roosevelt) 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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