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**TAHOE TRUCKEE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Skyler Flora of Tahoe Truckee High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Flora is the first Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Tahoe Truckee 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 Flora as Nevada'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, Flora 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-4 senior raced to her second consecutive Division 1-A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:44.1, leading the Wolverines to the state title as a team. Flora also won the Nevada Twilight Classic, the Josh Ruff Memorial Invitational, the Sparks Railroader Invitational and the Northern Regional championship in 2014.

Flora has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. Also a Nordic skiing standout, she has volunteered on behalf of food-donation drives, the local humane society and a watershed-restoration initiative.

"Skyler is intelligent, athletic and determined to do her best for her team," said Truckee coach Rob McClendon. "She's led our team to back-to-back state titles and she's one of the best athletes I have ever coached in my 10 years of coaching."

Flora has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at the University of California-Berkeley 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.

Flora joins Gatorade Nevada Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Sydney Badger (2013-14 & 2012-13, Centennial High School), Mary Jo Wright (2011-12, Elko High School), Katie Gorczyca (2010-11, Palo Verde High School), and Kelsey Smith (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, South Tahoe), 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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