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## **SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 8, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Logan Morris of Spartanburg Christian Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Morris is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Spartanburg Christian Academy.

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 Morris as South Carolina'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, Morris 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-5 junior won a sixth consecutive Class A/AA individual state championship with a time of 18:10.48 this past season, leading the Warriors to a 10th straight state title as a team. The state's 2012-13 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Morris finished ninth at the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 17:18, then clocked an 18:58 at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships to finish 32nd.

Morris has maintained a 5.01 weighted GPA in the classroom and served as treasurer of her school's student council. Also a member of her school's National Beta Club chapter, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church community, an animal shelter, the Special Olympics, Girls on the Run, Operation Christmas Child, the Miracle League Buddy Program for special needs youth and a vacation bible school. Morris has also donated her time as a camp counselor, a mathematics tutor and as a youth cheerleading instructor in addition to delivering meals to area senior citizens.

"I think this was hands down her best season," said Shawn Wilson, head coach of rival Spartanburg Day School. "She brought the success that we've seen yearly on a local and state level to the regional and national scene with her finishes at Foot Locker regionals and nationals—not to mention clinching an unprecedented sixth consecutive individual state title. I'm certain she will take her running to a new level and achieve her goals during her upcoming senior season."

Morris 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.

Two-time winner Morris joins Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Ashbrook Gwinn (2013-14, Aiken High School), Meredith Kilburn (2011-12, Fort Mill High School), Sinead Haughey (2010-11 2009-10, Daniel High School), Tameka Jackson (2008-09, Seneca), and Mary Kate DuBard (2007-08, Northwestern) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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