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E.C. GLASS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Libby Davidson of E.C. Glass High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Virginia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Davidson is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from E.C. Glass 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 Davidson as Virginia'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, Davidson 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-1 sophomore won a second consecutive Group 4A individual state championship with a time of 17:12 this past season, leading the Hilltoppers to second place as a team. A two-time Group 4A All-State honoree, Davidson took fourth at the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 16:56, then earned All-American honors at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, clocking a 17:48.

Davidson has maintained a 4.22 weighted GPA in the classroom and serves as secretary of her school's student council. Also a member of E.C. Glass High's peer-mentoring program and leadership council, she has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, as part of her church's youth group and on behalf of multiple charitable organizations, including Girls on the Run and the Mayor's Youth Council. Davidson has also traveled on a service-mission trip to Salter Path, N.C., where she donated her time at a food shelter and with Habitat for Humanity.

"Libby is an outstanding young lady, student and runner," said E.C. Glass head coach Jerry Salmon. "In the 31 years that I have coached, I have never seen a more humble or gracious athlete. Despite her success, she remains extremely grounded. She is one of the hardest working athletes I have ever coached. Libby is a great teammate and definitely leads by example."

Davidson will begin her junior 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.

Davidson joins Gatorade Virginia Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Caroline Alcorta (2013-14, West Springfield High School), Sophie Chase (2012-13 & 2011-12, Lake Braddock High School), Annie LeHardy (2010-11, Hidden Valley High School), Kathleen Stevens (2009-10, Blacksburg), Megan Marsico (2008-09, Glenvar), and Kathleen Lautzenheiser (2007-08, Midlothian) 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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