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Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**KODIAK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 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 Levi Thomet of Kodiak High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Thomet is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Kodiak 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 Thomet as Alaska'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, Thomet 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, 130-pound senior raced to the Class 4A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:10, leading the Bears to the state title as a team. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Thomet finished 15th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:33 to earn All-American status. He also finished second at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships and seventh at the Foot Locker West Regional championship.

Thomet has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth hockey and running programs.

"Levi is blessed with a great deal of natural talent, and he has a great work ethic," said Kodiak head coach Marcus Dunbar. "He sets new goals and gets better every year. He said his biggest accomplishment, though, was leading our team to a state title."

Thomet remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Three-time winner Thomet joins Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Miles Knotek (2011-12, Seward High School), Silas Talbot (2010-11, Service High School), Jacob Kirk (2009-10, Grace Christian School), and Trevor Dunbar (2008-09 & 2007-08, Kodiak) 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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