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**DARIEN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Alex Ostberg of Darien High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Ostberg is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Darien 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 Ostberg as Connecticut'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, Ostberg 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-8, 120-pound senior broke the tape at the New England Cross Country Championships this past season with a meet-record time of 15:07. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Ostberg won his second consecutive Class L state championship in 15:21 and captured the State Open championship in a course-record time of 14:58. He also finished first the Manhattan Invitational and won the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships in 15:17.8. Ostberg took ninth at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, earning All-American status.

Ostberg has maintained a 4.10 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as an emergency medical technician with Darien Emergency Medical Services Post 53.

"Alex had an incredible year," said Darien coach Tyson Kaczmarek. "He now he has three of the four fastest times ever on the Wickham Park course that is used for the Class and Open championships, as well as for New Englands."

Ostberg has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at Stanford University beginning 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 Ostberg joins Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Henry Wynne (2012-13, Staples High School), Connor Rog (2011-12 & 2010-11, Fairfield College Preparatory School), John Raneri (2009-10 & 2008-09, New Fairfield), and Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury) 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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