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## **CHARTER SCHOOL OF WILMINGTON STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 15, 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 Kieran Tuntivate of Charter School of Wilmington as its 2014-15 Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Tuntivate is the first Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Charter School of Wilmington.

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 Tuntivate as Delaware'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, Tuntivate 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, 125-pound senior raced to the Division I individual state championship with a time of 15:50.60 this past season, leading the Force to second place as a team. Presented the Victor A. Zwolak Award as the state's Co-Runner of the Year by the New Castle County Coaches Association, Tuntivate took seventh at the Nike Cross Nationals Southeast Regional championships, clocking a 15:08.90. He was second at the Division I state meet as a junior in 2013.

Tuntivate has maintained a 4.20 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to fundraising to benefit needy children in Uganda, he has volunteered on behalf of his school's humanitarian club, Habitat for Humanity, the Sunday Breakfast Mission and Ulster Project Delaware's effort to promote peace in Northern Ireland.

"He's a gutsy runner," said Michelle Flanagan, head coach of rival Brandywine High. "I enjoy watching him turn on his kick at the end of his races. His times speak to his running ability, but his devotion to his team may not be as obvious. He is a true competitor and team player."

Tuntivate will attend Harvard University this fall, where he will continue his running career.

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.

Tuntivate joins Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Patrick Hally (2013-14, Salesianum School), John Mascioli (2012-13, Archmere Academy), Sam Parsons (2011-12, The Tatnall School), Sebastian Oja (2010-11, Archmere Academy), Ryan Lee (2009-10, Archmere Academy), Greg Morrin (2008-09, Saint Mark's), and George Vernon (2007-08, Concord) 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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