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**LEON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Sukhi Khosla of Leon High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Florida Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Khosla is the second Gatorade Florida Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Leon 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 Khosla as Florida'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, Khosla 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, 110-pound senior raced to the Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:01.8, leading the Lions to second place as a team. Khosla also broke the tape at the FSU Pre-State Invitational, the Bale-N-Trail Cross Country Original, the Carrolton Invitational, the Region 1 championships and the District 3 championships. He finished second at the Nike Cross Nationals Southeast Regional championships in 14:56.

Khosla has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. He has assisted in the building of a handicapped-accessible ramp in his community and has volunteered locally on behalf of area road races.

"Personally, I feel that Khosla is the best all-around distance runner that Florida has produced in the last three decades," said Scott Gowan, head coach at Chiles High. "His marks in every event are outstanding and I don't think he's lost a race to another Florida athlete in his junior and senior years."

Khosla 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.

Khosla joins Gatorade Florida Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Nick Diaz (2013-14, Miami Sunset Senior High School), Thomas Howell (2012-13, Niceville High School), Andres Arroyo (2011-12, Colonial High School), Jimmy Clark (2010-11, Creekside High School), Matt Mizereck (2009-10, Leon), and Brian Atkinson (2008-09 & 2007-08, Melbourne) 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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