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**MCHENRY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Jesse Reiser of McHenry Community High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Illinois Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Reiser is the first Gatorade Illinois Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from McHenry Community 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 Reiser as Illinois'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, Reiser 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 6-foot, 140-pound senior raced to the Class AAA individual state championship this past season with a time of 14:11. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Reiser is one of just four prep boys nationwide to earn All-American honors at both national title races. He placed sixth at the Nike Cross Nationals Final in 15:26, and was eighth at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:20. Reiser also won the NXN Midwest Regional championships with a time of 15:01.9 and took third at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships.

Reiser has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor in his school, he has volunteered locally on behalf of area road races and community clean-up initiatives.

"Jesse trains hard, is quick to learn, very coachable, and extremely dedicated to the sport," said McHenry coach Beth Czubik. "His passion for competing and knowledge of running allow him to excel at any challenge he faces."

Reiser has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at the University of Illinois 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 Reiser joins Gatorade Illinois Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jack Keelan (2012-13, St. Ignatius College Prep.), Michael Clevenger (2011-12, MacArthur High School), Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11 & 2009-10, Carl Sandburg High School), Steve Sulkin (2008-09, York), and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley) 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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