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HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Ethan Shuley of Highlands High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Shuley is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Highlands 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 Shuley as Kentucky'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, Shuley 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, 120-pound junior raced to the Class 2A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:58, leading the Bluebirds to a third-place finish as a team. Also the 2014 Kentucky Track and Cross County Coaches Association Class 2A Runner of the Year, Shuley also took 10th at the Nike Cross Nationals Southeast Regional championships, crossing the line in 15:18.

Shuley has maintained a 4.18 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished percussionist with both his school concert and jazz bands, he is a member of the Boy Scouts of America and has volunteered locally in association with the National Honor Society.

"Ethan Shuley has been a very strong and consistent runner in our state," said Todd Whitsell, head coach at Webster County High. "He has competed with top individual runners and has not backed down from his competitors. He has shown the ability to run with a pack and pull away near the finish line, winning the race and never looking back."

Shuley will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Shuley joins Gatorade Kentucky Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Patrick Gregory (2013-14, Butler Traditional High School), Jacob Thomson (2012-13 & 2011-12, Holy Cross High School), Evan Ehrenheim (2010-11, Daviess County High School), Ryan Eaton (2009-10 & 2008-09, Greenwood), and Gordy Dooley (2007-08, St. Henry District) 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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