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Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

JOHN CURTIS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Devyn Keith of John Curtis Christian School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Keith is the first Gatorade Louisiana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from John Curtis Christian 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 Keith as Louisiana'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, Keith 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-9, 160-pound junior raced to a second consecutive Class 3A individual state championship with a time of 15:58.10 this past season, leading the Patriots to the state title as a team. The All-New Orleans Area Runner of the Year as named by The Times-Picayune, Keith captured 11th place at the Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships in 16:03.84. In addition to finishing unbeaten against Louisiana prep cross country competitors in 2014, he clocked a 14:53.26 at Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High's Rollette Invitational, which ranked as the state's fastest three-mile time of the season.

Keith has maintained a 3.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's student council, spirit club and poetry club as well as a columnist for the student newspaper, he has volunteered as a youth running instructor, as part of Rotary International's Interact club and on behalf of his church.

"Apart from being the best distance runner in the state, his level of intensity and seriousness that he brings with him to race always impressed me," said Dawson McCall, head coach of rival Lusher Charter School. "He seems always ready to race and is a tenacious competitor."

Keith 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.

Keith joins Gatorade Louisiana Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Zachary Albright (2013-14, Saint Paul's School), Enrique Soto (2012-13, Lakeside High School), Cole Stafford (2011-12, Catholic High School), Matthew Rice (2010-11, Runnels High School), Philip Primeaux (2009-10 & 2008-09, Catholic), and Philipp Goettert (2007-08, Baton Rouge Magnet) 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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