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**CHELMSFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Quinn Cooney of Chelmsford High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Cooney is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Chelmsford 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 Cooney as Massachusetts'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, Cooney 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-10, 145-pound senior raced to a Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:44. Also the 2014 Boston Globe Boys' Cross Country All-Scholastic Co-Runner of the Year, Cooney earned 22nd place at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships, crossing the line in 16:03.1.

Cooney has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. A devoted member of his parish community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the All Saints' Episcopal Church and the Baystate Marathon.

"As an opposing coach, I admire Quinn Cooney's grit and toughness," said Scott Cody, head coach at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School. "He is a fighter. In order to beat him you have to match him and find a way to break him. Obviously, no one in Massachusetts could do that when it mattered."

Cooney will attend Dartmouth College this fall, where he will compete in cross country and track and field.

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.

Cooney joins Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Mohamed Hussein (2013-14, Northfield Mount Hermon School), Jonathan Green (2012-13, St. John's High School), Wesley Gallagher (2011-12, Pembroke High School), John Murray (2010-11, Shrewsbury High School), Patrick McGowan (2009-10, Mansfield), Mike Moverman (2008-09, Oliver Ames), and Robert Gibson (2007-08, Brookline) 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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