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Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)

**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 DaJour Braxton of Centennial High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Braxton is the second Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Braxton as Nevada'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, Braxton 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-1, 135-pound senior raced to the Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a course-record time of 15:34.2. Braxton also broke the tape at the Santa Clarita Valley Invitational, the Red Rock Running Invitational, the Falcon Invitational, the Labor Day Classic and the Southern Region championships. He finished 18th at the Nike Cross Nationals Southwest Regional championships.

Braxton has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a middle school cross country program.

"DaJour is a very humble young man who works extremely hard and has many great accomplishments to his credit," said Centennial head coach Mike McGuire. "He's one of the top student-athletes in Centennial athletic history."

Braxton has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at Louisiana State University 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.

Braxton joins Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Kai Benedict (2013-14, McQueen High School), Jordan Cardenas (2012-13, Reno High School), Nick Hartle (2011-12 & 2010-11, Centennial High School), Wade Meddles (2009-10 & 2008-09, Sierra Lutheran) and Bryan Tibaduiza (2007-08, Galena) 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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