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**SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Matthew Maton of Summit High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Maton is the second Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Summit 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 Maton as Oregon'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, Maton 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, 145-pound senior raced to the Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a course-record time of 14:45, leading the Storm to the state title as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Maton also broke the tape at the Oxford Classic, the George Fox Classic and the Intermountain Conference championships. He finished third at the Foot Locker West Regional championships in 15:36.4 and took 19th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships.

Maton has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track clinics and an animal shelter.

"Matthew is a kid with high goals, looking even beyond his high school career, and I think the sky is the limit," said Summit coach Carol McLatchie. "One of his big goals this year was to win state and break Galen Rupp's record, and it was exciting to see him accomplish that."

Maton has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at the University of Oregon 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 Maton joins Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jackson Darland (2012-13, Sheldon High School), Travis Neuman (2011-12, Summit High School), Matthew Melancon (2010-11, Sheldon High School), Drew Jordan (2009-10, North Medford), Elliott Jantzer (2008-09, Phoenix), and Bryce Burgess (2007-08, Franklin) 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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