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LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Andrew Hunter of Loudoun Valley High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Virginia Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Hunter is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Loudoun Valley 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 Hunter as Virginia'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, Hunter 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 junior raced to a second consecutive Group 3A individual state championship with a course-record time of 14:41 this past season, leading the Vikings to fifth place as a team. The All-Met Runner of the Year as named by The Washington Post, Hunter broke the tape at the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 14:36, which ranked as the state's fastest 5K of the season, and then took fourth at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, clocking a 15:14. He finished unbeaten against Virginia prep cross country competitors in 2014.

Hunter has maintained a 4.01 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth basketball instructor, he has volunteered as a mentor at Potomac Hills Presbyterian Church.

"He does the little things that it takes to be successful that many are not willing to do," said Doug Gilbert, head coach of rival Heritage High. "It is very impressive to see what he has achieved, being that he has two track seasons and another cross country season to go. His character is second to none. He is a great ambassador for the running community and is very outgoing among his peers."

Hunter 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.

Hunter joins Gatorade Virginia Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Louis Colson (2013-14, Thomas Edison High School), Sean McGorty (2012-13, Chantilly High School), Ahmed Bile (2011-12 & 2010-11, Annandale High School), Kevin Dowd (2009-10, Fairfax), Thomas Porter (2008-09, Mountain View), and Jason Witt (2007-08, Midlothian) 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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