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NORTH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Tanner Anderson of North Central High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Anderson is the third Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from North Central 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 Anderson as Washington'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, Anderson 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, 135-pound senior raced to a national title this past season with a time of 15:11 at the Nike Cross Nationals Final. Anderson won the Class 3A individual state championship for the second consecutive year, clocking a meet-record time of 14:32. He also won the NXN Northwest Regional championships in 15:46.6 and broke the tape at the Tracy Walters Invitational as well as the Richland Invitational.

Anderson has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has helped feed the needy at Thanksgiving and has volunteered locally on behalf of environmental conservation efforts.

"Tanner has undergone a truly remarkable transformation as a leader for our team," said North Central coach Jon Knight. "He's a kind, thoughtful and humble young man who does his best to make the world around him a better place."

Anderson remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Anderson joins Gatorade Washington Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Kai Wilmot (2013-14, North Central High School), Andrew Gardner (2012-13, Mead High School), Nathan Weitz (2011-12, Shadle Park High School), Kenji Bierig (2010-11, Lewis & Clark High School), Shane Moskowitz (2009-10, Central Kitsap), Andrew Kimpel (2008-09, North Central), and Miles Unterreiner (2007-08, Gig Harbor) 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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