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**Contact: Jason Belenke (312-729-3631)**

## **MADISON WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Olin Hacker of Madison West High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Hacker is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Madison West 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 Hacker as Wisconsin'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, Hacker 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, 130-pound senior raced to second place at the Nike Cross Nationals Final this past season, crossing the line in 15:13. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Hacker also earned second place at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, crossing the line in 15:12. Hacker was one of only four boys prep runners nationally to earn All-American status at both national title races this fall. The three-time First Team All-State selection captured the Division 1 individual championship this fall, breaking the tape in 14:59.1 and leading the Regents to a state title as a team.

Hacker has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and as a youth track & field coach.

"Olin Hacker is clearly one of the best runners in Wisconsin history," said Mike Heling, head coach at Kimberly High. "When we competed against him, he handled himself with humility and respect for the sport."

Hacker has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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 Hacker joins Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Ryan Kromer (2012-13, Hudson High School), Chandler Diffe (2011-12, LaFollette High School), Dan Schubert (2010-11, Appleton East High School), Marcus Paulson (2009-10, Hamilton), Brett Kelly (2008-09, West), and Elliot Krause (2007-08, Appleton North) 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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