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**RIO RICO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARIZONA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 14, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Allie Schadler of Rio Rico High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Arizona Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Schadler is the first Gatorade Arizona Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Rio Rico 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 Schadler as Arizona's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Schadler 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.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-5 junior raced to the Division 3 individual state championship this past season with a course-record time of 17:04.5, leading the Hawks to third place as a team. Schadler also won the Section 3 championship, the Four Corners Invitational and the Div. 4 race at the Mt. SAC Invitational.

Schadler has maintained a weighted 4.50 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs.

"Schadler is highly dedicated and highly focused," said Jeff Messer, head coach at Desert Vista High. "As a competitor she's very determined, even ferocious, but she's also quiet and extremely humble."

Schadler will begin her 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.

Schadler joins Gatorade Arizona Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Dani Jones (2014-15, & 2013-14, Desert Vista High School), Sarah Fakler (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Xavier College Prep.), Jessica Tonn (2009-10 & 2008-09, Xavier College Prep.), and Nadya Bishton (2007-08, Mountain Ridge High School) 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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