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**MADISON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 14, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Rachel Morrin of Madison High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Morrin is the first Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Madison 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 Morrin as Idaho'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, Morrin 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 sophomore raced to a Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:27.2, leading the Bobcats to a fourth-place finish as a team. The Post-Register All-Area Runner of the Year, Morrin earned 12th place at the Nike Cross Northwest Regional championships, crossing the line in 18:37.4.

Morrin has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished pianist, she is a member of the Spanish Club, the United Nations Club and has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group.

"Rachel Morrin has the mindset and work ethic of a champion," said Madison High head coach Steve Barrus. "She is driven to be successful and wants to bring her teammates success as well. Her teammates respect her because she is so kind to them."

Morrin will begin her junior 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.

Morrin joins Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Emily Hamlin (2014-15, Boise High School), Sam McKinnon (2013-14, Mountain View High School), Sierra Manzer (2012-13, Melba High School), Emily Nist (2011-12, Bishop Kelly High School), Kinsey Gomez (2010-11 & 2009-10, Coeur d'Alene High School), Liz Brandon (2008-09, Eagle High School), and Nicole Nielsen (2007-08, Borah 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.

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