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**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Ariel Keklak of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Keklak is the second Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Lincoln-Sudbury Regional 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 Keklak as Massachusetts'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, Keklak 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-3 senior raced to the Division I individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:25.1, leading the Warriors to a second place finish as a team. The 2015 Boston Globe Division I Girls Cross Country All-Scholastic Runner of the Year, Keklak took seventh at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships, crossing the line in 17:52.7. She also qualified for the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships where she finished 30th in 18:28.2.

Keklak has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and a student government representative, she has volunteered locally as a youth track & field coach.

"Ariel Keklak is a highly motivated individual and is an extremely talented runner," said Lincoln-Sudbury High head coach Henry Phelan. "She takes the sport very seriously and does all the little things in her daily life to stay healthy and make herself a better athlete."

Keklak has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at Wake Forest University 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.

Keklak joins Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Erin Dietz (2014-15, Bedford High School), Anoush Shehadeh (2013-14, Phillips Academy), Catarina Rocha (2012-13 & 2011-12, Peabody High School), Ariel Beauregard-Breton (2010-11, Deerfield Academy), Andrea Keklak (2009-10, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School), Emily Jones (2008-09 & 2007-08, The Bromfield 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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