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**GRANDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Madison Troy of Grandville High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Troy is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Grandville 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 Troy as Michigan'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, Troy 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 sophomore raced to the Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:28.2. Troy finished seventh nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 17:41.2 and took 12th at the Nike Cross Nationals Final.

Troy has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has assisted at a food pantry and volunteered working with underprivileged children.

"Madison is as strong physically as she is mentally, which makes her a force to be reckoned with," said Grandville coach Jennifer Callendar. "She seems to be an ordinary teenager, but as soon as she laces up her running shoes, she transforms into a superhuman athlete."

Troy 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.

Troy joins Gatorade Michigan Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Audrey Belf (2014-15, Seaholm High School), Kirsten Olling (2013-14, Breckenridge High School), Julia Bos (2012-13, Grand Rapids Christian High School), Erin Finn (2011-12, West Bloomfield High School), Gabrielle Anzalone (2010-11, Grand Blanc High School), Megan Goethals (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rochester High School), and Katie Haines (2007-08, Rockford 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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