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**CHARLES PAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Cheyenne Walden of Charles Page High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Walden is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Charles Page 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 Walden as Oklahoma'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, Walden 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 two-time returning Gatorade State Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-2 junior won a third-straight Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:57.9, breaking the tape 52.3 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor. A three-time Tulsa World All-Metro Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Walden placed sixth at the Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships and 59th at the NXN Final.

Walden has maintained a 3.50 GPA in the classroom. A member of her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally at the Sand Springs Children's Home and as a youth track coach.

"Cheyenne Walden is a very talented runner," said Blake Collins, head coach of Owasso High. "She has gone basically uncontested for the last three years in cross country. She seems to run with a real joy and the thing I like best about Cheyenne is when she has completed her race she waits in the finish chute and congratulates the girls finishing behind her."

Walden 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.

Three-time winner Walden joins Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Alex Davis (2012-13 & 2011-12, Plainview High School), Noemi Hernandez (2010-11, Westmoore High School), Jori Davis (2009-10, Piedmont High School), Andrea Lewis (2008-09, Bishop Kelley High School), and Sara Vaughn (2007-08, Union 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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