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**DOWNINGTOWN WEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Aislinn Devlin of Downingtown West High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Devlin is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Downingtown West 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 Devlin as Pennsylvania'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, Devlin 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-6 junior raced to ninth place at the Nike Cross Nationals Final this past season with a time of 17:22.1. Devlin won the NXN Northeast Regional championships in 17:54.6 and also broke the tape first at the District 1 championships, the West Chester Henderson Invitational and the Carlisle Invitational. She finished second at the Class AAA state championship meet.

Devlin has maintained a 4.30 GPA in the classroom. A teacher's aide in her school, Devlin has volunteered locally on behalf of charity road races.

"Aislinn's accomplishments are no surprise because she's put in the time, the effort and the work," said Downingtown West coach Scott Burns. "The level of dedication and focus on process that she demonstrates are really extraordinary."

Devlin 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.

Devlin joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Brianna Schwartz (2014-15, Shaler Area High School), Tessa Barrett (2013-14, Abington Heights High School), Courtney Smith (2012-13, Unionville High School), Angel Piccirillo (2011-12 & 2010-11, Homer-Center High School), Sara Sargent (2009-10, Pennsbury High School), Sophia Ziemian (2008-09, Lewisburg Area High School), and Neely Spence (2007-08, Shippensburg 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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