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**HOLY NAMES ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Jordan Oakes of Holy Names Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Oakes is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Holy Names Academy.

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 Oakes as Washington'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, Oakes 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-8 junior raced to the Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:53.5. Oakes also won the Bellevue Invitational and the Metro League championship and finished 20th nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships.

Oakes has maintained a 4.17 GPA in the classroom. Vice president of the Seattle chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Oakes has volunteered locally on behalf of the Woodland Park Zoo and the U.S. Youth Soccer TOPSoccer program serving young athletes with disabilities.

"Jordan has consistently improved in both time and competitiveness each season," said Holy Names coach Erin McCormick. "She constantly elevates the team's energy and morale through her positivity, humor and creativity."

Oakes 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.

Oakes joins Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Lindsey Bradley (2014-15, Richland High School), Alexa Efraimson (2013-14, Camas High School), Amy-Eloise Neale (2012-13, 2010-11 & 2009-10, Glacier Peak High School), Katie Knight (2011-12, North Central High School), Alyssa Andrews (2008-09, Gig Harbor High School), and Andrea Nelson (2007-08, Shadle Park 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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