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## **CHARTER SCHOOL OF WILMINGTON STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 22, 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 Kevin Murray of Charter School of Wilmington as its 2015-16 Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Murray is the second Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Charter School of Wilmington.

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 Murray as Delaware's best high school boys cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Murray 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.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-10, 135-pound senior distance runner raced to the Division I individual state championship with a course-record time of 15:20.60 this past season, leading the Force to a state title. Presented the Victor A. Zwolak Award as the state's Runner of the Year by the New Castle County Coaches Association, Murray took second at the Nike Cross Nationals Southeast Regional championships in a state-record 15:06.80, and then placed 34th at the NXN Final in 15:41.80. He finished unbeaten against in-state competition in 2015.

Murray has maintained a 4.37 weighted GPA in the classroom. He is a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist and has traveled to Taiwan as part of a student exchange program. A member of the National Honor Society and Model United Nations club, Murray has volunteered at a local road race and on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. He has also participated in the Naval Academy's Summer STEM Program and West Point's Summer Leaders Experience.

"I was most impressed with the fearless nature of his racing," said Mike Mooney, head coach at rival Newark High. "It is easy to see that Kevin has great belief in himself and the will to really test his limits. This has been an inspiration to all. The fact that he has done so with such humility and grace is reason for this recognition."

Murray remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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.

Murray joins Gatorade Delaware Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Kieran Tuntivate (2014-15, Charter School of Wilmington), Patrick Hally (2013-14, Salesianum School), John Mascioli (2012-13, Archmere Academy), Sam Parsons (2011-12, The Tatnall School), Sebastian Oja (2010-11, Archmere Academy), Ryan Lee (2009-10, Archmere Academy), Greg Morrin (2008-09, Saint Mark's High School), and George Vernon (2007-08, Concord 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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