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**BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 22, 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 Jeremy Brown of Broughton High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Broughton 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 Brown as North Carolina'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, Brown 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 state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Brown raced to a second straight Class 4A individual state championship this past season, leading the Capitals to second place as a team. The 6-foot, 145-pound senior distance runner took fifth at the Nike Cross Nationals Southeast Regional championships in 15:19.80, and then finished 85th at the NXN Final in 16:05.90. He earned All-State honors in each of his four prep seasons.

Brown has maintained a 3.63 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to hosting professional athletes for the Sir Walter Miler event, he has completed more than 100 hours of community service on behalf of his school, including his participation in Broughton High's peer-mentoring initiative.

"Jeremy represented North Carolina proudly," said Broughton head coach David Christian, the 1998-99 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. "Jeremy has shown that dedication and hard work as well as the correct preparation, desire and fuel can go a long way toward making a champion."

Brown has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning 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.

Two-time winner Brown joins Gatorade North Carolina Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Ben Huffman (2013-14, Providence Day School), Bakri Abushouk (2012-13, Cary High School), Thomas Graham (2011-12, Cary Academy), Blake Williams (2010-11, Northern High School), Jake Hurysz (2009-10, Eastern Alamance High School), Taylor Gilland (2008-09, Chapel Hill High School), and Ryan Hill (2007-08, Hickory 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.