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**CENTRAL BUCKS EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Jake Brophy of Central Bucks East High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Brophy is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Central Bucks East 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 Brophy as Pennsylvania'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, Brophy 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-9, 125-pound senior raced to his second consecutive Class AAA individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:39. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Brophy took second at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships and finished eighth at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:21. He also won the PIAA Foundation Invitational and the Briarwood Invitational.

Brophy has maintained a 4.30 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's student council, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal shelter.

"Jake is a dream athlete for a coach," said Central Bucks East coach Sam Losorelli. "He never deviates from workouts or race strategy, and he's always focused on training smart. He's mature beyond his years."

Brophy will attend the U.S. Naval Academy this fall, where he will compete in cross country and track and field.

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 Brophy joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Tony Russell (2013-14, Henderson High School), Brendan Shearn (2012-13, North Schuylkill High School), Dustin Wilson (2011-12, Chestnut Hill Academy), Zach Hedba (2010-11, North Hills Senior High School), Brad Miles (2009-10, North Penn High School), Ben Furcht (2008-09, Lower Merion High School), and Mark Dennin (2007-08, Boyertown Area Senior 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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