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**DIVINE SAVIOR HOLY ANGELS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 23, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Meghan Scott of Divine Savior Holy Angels High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Scott is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Divine Savior Holy Angels 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 Scott as Wisconsin'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/February, Scott joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Lukas Verzbicas (2010-11, 2009-10 Carl Sandburg, Orland Park, Ill.), Megan Goethals (2009-10, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Mich.), Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Prep., San Luis Obispo, Calif.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-5 junior won the Division I state meet this past season with a time of 18:10.46, breaking the tape 14.25 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Dashers to a seventh-place finish as a team. Scott finished sixth at the Nike Cross Nationals Heartland Regional championships and set course records at the Chocolate City Invitational, the Greater Metro Conference Meet and the Division I South Milwaukee Sectional race. She is a two-time First Team All-State selection.

An accomplished Irish dancer, Scott has volunteered locally as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit multiple sclerosis research. She has also donated her time as an elementary-school tutor and on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives through her school's service team. "I was extremely impressed with Meghan Scott's season this fall," said Lorie Lewis, head coach of Brookfield Central High. "She steadily improved throughout and raced her best when it counted the most. By the time she raced in the sectional and state meets she was a runner none of the competition could match."

Scott has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Scott joins Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Aubrey Roberts (2015-16, Memorial High School), Annie Frisbie (2014-15, River Falls High School), Elizabeth Flatley (2013-14, Brookfield Central High School), Andrea Ostenso (2012-13, Ladysmith High School), Molly Seidel (2011-12, University Lake School), Allison Woodward (2010-11, Notre Dame de la Baie Academy), Marya Haegler (2009-10, Winnebago Lutheran Academy), Morgan Sickels (2008-09, Catholic Memorial High School), and Ashley Beutler (2007-08, New Glarus High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Scott will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants - one for each sport - will be announced throughout the year.

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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