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**MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Lexy Halladay of Mountain View High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Halladay is the second Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Mountain View 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 Halladay as Idaho'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, Halladay 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-6 freshman won the Class 5A state meet this past season with a time of 18:10.27, breaking the tape 11.48 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Mavericks to a first-place finish as a team. Halladay finished 16th at the Nike Cross Nationals Final in 18:00.3 to earn All-American honors after placing second at the NXN Northwest Regional championships. She was undefeated against in-state competition and also won the Roy Griak Invitational in Minnesota.

An accomplished violinist, Halladay has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group. "Lexy is the future of running in the United States," said Tracy Harris, head coach of Mountain View High. "She is humble, motivated, tenacious and fiercely competitive. It will be so much fun to watch and be a part of her career over the next four years."

Halladay has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. She will begin her sophomore 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.

Halladay joins Gatorade Idaho Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Rachel Morrin (2015-16, Madison High School), Emily Hamlin (2014-15, Boise High School), Sam McKinnon (2013-14, Mountain View High School), Sierra Manzer (2012-13, Melba High School), Emily Nist (2011-12, Bishop Kelly High School), Kinsey Gomez (2010-11 & 2009-10, Coeur d'Alene High School), Liz Brandon (2008-09, Eagle High School), and Nicole Nielsen (2007-08, Borah High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Halladay 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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