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**BUENA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 30, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Manuel Olivo-Quinones of Buena High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Olivo-Quinones is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Buena 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 Olivo-Quinones as Arizona'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, Olivo-Quinones 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.), Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury High School, Glastonbury, Conn.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-10, 135-pound senior raced to the Division 2 individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:41. Olivo-Quinones finished eighth at the Nike Cross Nationals Southwest Regional championships and placed 11th nationally at the NXN Final, earning All-American honors in the process. He also won the Rio Rico Rattler Invitational, the Justin Prevatte Classic, the Section 1 championships and the varsity blue division of the Woodbridge Classic.

Olivo-Quinones has volunteered locally on behalf of community road races and trail-restoration efforts. "Manny is a hard worker, very motivated, and he had very high goals," said Buena coach Roger Bristow. "I was very happy with how well he finished (at the Nike Cross Nationals). I knew he had it in him, and he went in very focused."

Olivo-Quinones has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. He 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 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.

Olivo-Quinones joins Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year D. J. Harris (2015-16, Desert Vista High School), Carlos Villarreal (2014-15, Rio Rico High School), Nathan Rodriguez (2013-14, Corona del Sol High School), Bernie Montoya (2012-13 & (2011-12, Cibola High School), Billy Orman (2010-11, Tuba City High School), Brian Shrader (2009-10 & 2008-09, Sinagua High School), and Jim Walmsley (2007-08, Horizon High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Olivo-Quinones 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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