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**SAN LUIS OBISPO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 Callum Bolger of San Luis Obispo High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Bolger is the first Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from San Luis Obispo 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 Bolger as California'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, Bolger 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-9, 130-pound senior raced to the Division 4 individual state championship this past season with a time of 14:57.4. Bolger finished 6th at the Foot Locker West Regional championships and took 10th nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:19, earning All-American honors in the process. He also won the Southern Section championships, the PAC 8 League championships and the Mt. SAC Invitational.

Bolger has volunteered locally on behalf of the United Way and the San Luis Obispo Bike Kitchen. "Callum has a superb work ethic, at practice as well as in the classroom," said San Luis Obispo coach Steve Boaz. "He's been instrumental as a team leader, supporting his teammates to train and perform at the highest levels of competition."

Bolger has maintained a weighted 4.52 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at Stanford University 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.

Bolger joins Gatorade California Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Phillip Rocha (2015-16, Arcadia High School), Austin Tamagno (2014-15, Brea Olinda High School), Blake Haney (2013-14, Stockdale High School), Bryan Fernandez (2012-13, Dos Pueblos High School), Darren Fahy (2011-12, La Costa Canyon High School), Ammar Moussa (2010-11 & 2009-10, Arcadia High School), Chris Schwartz (2008-09, Foothill High School), and German Fernandez (2007-08, Riverbank High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Bolger 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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