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**CORUNNA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 30, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Noah Jacobs of Corunna High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Jacobs is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Corunna 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 Jacobs as Michigan'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, Jacobs 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-7, 130-pound senior raced to the Division 2 individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:28, leading the Cavaliers to the state title as a team. Jacobs took fourth at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships and finished 14th nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, earning All-American honors in the process. He also broke the tape at the Spartan Invitational, the Portage Invitational and the Mid-East Championships.

Jacobs has volunteered locally on behalf of a Vacation Bible School and a Little League Baseball team. "Noah has been a phenomenal leader," said Corunna coach Bryan Heid. "He sets the example for the rest of the team to follow. He truly wants everyone to achieve their goals, and he encourages them every step along the way."

Jacobs has maintained a 4.14 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Jacobs joins Gatorade Michigan Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Isaac Harding (2015-16, Rockford High School), Grant Fisher (2014-15 & 2013-14, Grand Blanc High School), Nick Raymond (2012-13, Erie-Mason High School), Evan Chiplock (2011-12, Heritage High School), Caleb Rhynard (2010-11, Shepherd High School), Michael Atchoo (2009-10, Troy High School), Stephen Walker (2008-09, H.H. Dow High School), and Maverick Darling (2007-08, Ovid-Elsie High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Jacobs 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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