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**MAPLE GROVE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Alex Miley of Maple Grove Senior High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Miley is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Maple Grove Senior 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 Miley as Minnesota'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, Miley 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 6-foot-3, 170-pound senior finished 15th at the Nike Cross Nationals Final this past season with a time of 15:56.1, earning All-American honors. Miley took fifth at the Class AA state meet in 15:53.7, leading the Crimson to a third-place finish as a team. He won his first seven races of the season and also crossed the line in fifth at the NXN Heartland Regional championships.

Miley is the head of his school's National Honor Society's peer tutoring project. He has volunteered locally as a school ambassador and as a youth baseball and softball umpire. "No matter the competition, Alex always ran hard and never looked back," said Ross Fleming, head coach of Mounds View High. "He is a ferocious competitor."

Miley has maintained a weighted 3.84 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.

Miley joins Gatorade Minnesota Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jaret Carpenter (2015-16, Wayzata High School), Connor Olson (2014-15 & 2013-14, Wayzata High School), Matt Welch (2012-13, Proctor High School), Josh Thorson (2011-12, Wayzata High School), Adam Zutz (2010-11, St. Francis High School), Aaron Bartnik (2009-10, Eden Prairie High School), Lukas Gemar (2008-09, Moorhead High School), and Jordan Carlson (2007-08, Rosemount High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Miley 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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