

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Noah Affolder of Carlisle High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Affolder is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Carlisle 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 Affolder as Pennsylvania'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, Affolder 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, 145-pound senior raced to the Class AAA individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:33, leading the Thundering Herd to second place as a team. Affolder won the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships in 15:28.2 and finished sixth nationally at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, earning All-American honors in the process. He also won the Carlisle Invitational, the McQuaid Invitational, the Manhattan Invitational and the Great Edinburgh International Challenge.

A devoted member of his church community, Affolder has volunteered locally feeding the needy. "My only regret is that I didn't have the opportunity to work with him until now," said Carlisle coach Ed Boardman. "He adapted well to another new training system and I could not imagine being happier with his commitment to the sport. I truly believe we'll see some special performances from this young man in the next few months."

Affolder has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at Syracuse 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.

Affolder joins Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jake Brophy (2015-16 & 2014-15, Central Bucks East High School), Tony Russell (2013-14, Henderson High School), Brendan Shearn (2012-13, North Schuylkill High School), Dustin Wilson (2011-12, Chestnut Hill Academy), Zach Hedba (2010-11, North Hills Senior High School), Brad Miles (2009-10, North Penn), Ben Furcht (2008-09, Lower Merion High School), and Mark Dennin (2007-08, Boyertown Area Senior High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Affolder 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.

###