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**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Tyler Marshall of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Marshall is the first Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union 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 Marshall as Vermont'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, Marshall 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-2, 160-pound senior raced to the Division 1 individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:13.9, leading the Redhawks to the state title as a team. Marshall also won the Queensbury Invitational, the Burnt Hills Invitational and the Varsity C race at the Manhattan Invitational. He finished fourth at the New England Cross Country Championships, third at the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast Regional championships and 36th nationally at the NXN Final.

Marshall has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs and community road races. "Tyler has an amazing work ethic, which has allowed him to grow over four years into one of the best cross country runners in New England and the entire Northeast region," said Champlain Valley Union coach Scott Bliss. "I'm not sure I'll ever coach another boy at his level. I'm glad I got to experience it at least this one time."

Marshall has maintained a 3.41 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 Vermont 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.

Marshall joins Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Matt Hynes (2015-16, Montpelier High School), Sam Nishi (2014-15 & 2013-14, Harwood Union High School), Daniel Grosvenor (2012-13, Montpelier High School), Malcolm Plunkett (2011-12, South Burlington High School), Brendan Copley (2010-11, Colchester High School), David Sinclair (2009-10, Green Mountain Valley School), Adron Pitmon (2008-09, Mt. Mansfield Union High School), and Kyle Powers (2007-08, St. Johnsbury Academy) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Marshall 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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