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**NORTH SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE UTAH GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 29, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Sadie Sargent of North Summit High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade Utah Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Sargent is the first Gatorade Utah Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from North Summit 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 Sargent as Utah's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Sargent 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.) and Chris Derrick (2007-08, Neuqua Valley, Naperville, Ill.).

The 5-foot-5 senior raced to the Class 2A individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:31.1, leading the Braves to the state title as a team. Sargent took fifth at the Nike Cross Nationals Southwest Regional championships and earned First Team All-American honors with a seventh-place finish nationally at the NXN Final. She also earned victories at the BYU Autumn Classic, the Murray Invitational and the Region 16 championships, while taking second at the Bob Firman Invitational.

Also a talented musician, Sargent has volunteered locally on behalf of her church youth group and charity races. "Sadie didn't realize her own full potential until the state meet of her freshman year, when she finished second," said North Summit coach David Peck. "From there, she's worked very hard to be the best runner in the state, as well as an exceptional captain for our team."

Sargent has maintained a 3.55 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track and field on scholarship at Brigham Young 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.

Sargent joins Gatorade Utah Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Whitney Rich (2016-17, Bingham High School), Courtney Wayment (2015-16, Davis High School), Lucy Biles (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Herriman High School), Kelsey Braithwaite (2011-12, Box Elder High School), Shea Martinez (2010-11, Davis High School), Gillian Gorelik (2009-10, Park City High School), Danielle Menlove (2008-09, Jordan High School), and Hailey Knettles (2007-08, Judge Memorial Catholic) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Sargent 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 the conversation on Twitter #GatoradePOY. 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 <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com/>.

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