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**DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 12, 2018) — In its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Wynn Johnson of Dorman High School as its 2017-18 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Dorman 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 field, distinguishes Johnson as South Carolina'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, Johnson 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-1, 155-pound senior raced to the Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:38, leading the Cavaliers to the state title as a team. Johnson also finished first at the County championships, the Region championships, the Cavalier Classic, the Riverside Irma Run and the Upper State Qualifier.

A member of the Beta Club, Johnson has volunteered locally with Camp Hope, assisting at-risk youth. "I've never coached a runner who has overcome more injuries than Wynn has during their high school career, and in each case, he's been able to come back stronger than before," said Dorman coach Jeff Buys. "Our program has placed many runners into the collegiate ranks, but Wynn has the ten fastest times ever run by any athlete from Dorman."

Johnson has maintained a 3.89 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.

Johnson joins Gatorade South Carolina Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year John Ward (2016-17, Wade Hampton High School), Jackson Ellenburg (2015-16, Ashley Ridge High School), Micah Williams (2014-15, Greer Middle College Charter High School), Brent Demarest (2013-14 & 2012-13, Porter-Gaud School), Roland Hakes (2011-12 & 2010-11, Dutch Fork High School), Aaron Ramirez (2009-10 & 2008-09, Woodmont High School), and Luke Lovelace (2007-08, Chapin High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Johnson 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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