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**WEBB SCHOOL OF KNOXVILLE STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 12, 2018) — In its 33rd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Carter Coughlin of Webb School of Knoxville as its 2017-18 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Coughlin is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Webb School of Knoxville.

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 Coughlin as Tennessee'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, Coughlin 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, 120-pound senior won the Division II Class A state meet this past season with a time of 15:47.1, breaking the tape on minute and 15.65 seconds ahead of his next-closest competitor and leading the Spartans to a fourth-place finish as a team. Coughlin took fifth at the Foot Locker South Regional championships and then earned All-American status with a 15th-place finish at Foot Locker nationals. He won six of nine races on the season.

The editor of his school yearbook, Coughlin participated in a service trip to Dominica where he completed biological research in the rainforest and the Caribbean Sea. He has volunteered locally with Water Angels, a ministry that serves the homeless. "While it may be true Carter possesses a lot of natural ability, he earned every one of his accolades through years of dedication and training," said Bobby Holcombe, head coach of Webb School. "He has trusted the process and become a great student of the sport."

Coughlin has maintained a weighted 4.59 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to run cross country on scholarship at Wake Forest 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.

Coughlin joins Gatorade Tennessee Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Brodey Hasty (2016-17 & 2015-16, Brentwood High School), Adam Barnard (2014-15, Daniel Boone High School), Aaron Templeton (2013-14 & 2012-13, Hardin Valley Academy), Daniel Peters (2011-12, Montgomery Bell Academy), Michael Peters (2010-11, Montgomery Bell Academy), Brandon Lord (2009-10, Baylor School), Bill Matthews (2008-09, Baylor School), and Sean Keveren (2007-08, Brentwood High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Coughlin 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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