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**SPARTANBURG CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 14, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Logan Morris of Spartanburg Christian Academy as its 2015-16 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Morris is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Spartanburg Christian Academy.

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 Morris as South Carolina'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, Morris joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-00, 2000-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The state's 2012-13 and 2014-15 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Morris captured a state-record seventh consecutive South Carolina Independent Schools Association individual state championship with a time of 17:28.31 this past season, leading the Warriors to an 11th straight team title. The 5-foot-5 senior distance runner took ninth at both the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 17:18 and the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 17:47.70. Unbeaten against in-state competition in 2015, her winning time at the state meet ranked as South Carolina's fast time among prep competitors this past fall.

Morris has maintained a 5.02 weighted GPA in the classroom and served as president of her school's student council. A member of her school's National Beta Club chapter, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church, an animal shelter, the Special Olympics, Girls on the Run, Operation Christmas Child, the Miracle League Buddy Program for special needs youth and a vacation bible school. Morris has also donated her time as a camp counselor, a mathematics tutor and as a youth cheerleading instructor in addition to delivering meals to area senior citizens.

"While the elite performances that she turns in each week are head-turning, they are magnified by her consistency," said Shawn Wilson, head coach at rival Spartanburg Day School. "And talk about a performance of a lifetime at Foot Locker nationals. To finish ninth in the South Region and to come back and finish ninth in the country and earn All-American status—what a way to finish your high school career."

Morris has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at Clemson University beginning 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 high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Three-time winner Morris joins Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Ashbrook Gwinn (2013-14, Aiken High School), Meredith Kilburn (2011-12, Fort Mill High School), Sinead Haughey (2010-11, Daniel High School), Sinead Haughey (2009-10, Daniel High School), Tameka Jackson (2008-09, Seneca High School), and Mary Kate DuBard (2007-08, Northwestern High School) as athletes who have won the cross country award since its inception in 2007.

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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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