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**SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 13, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jenette Northey of Service High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alaska Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Northey is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Service 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 Northey as Alaska'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, Northey 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.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-5 sophomore raced to second place in the Class 4A state championship meet this past season with a time of 19:05. Northey also won individual titles at the Skyview Invitational, the Lynx Invitational and the Bartlett Invitational, and finished third at Oregon's Concordia/Puma Cross Country Classic.

Northey has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented dancer, she has volunteered locally as a Bible school teacher, and recently completed a mission trip to a rural community in South Africa.

"Jenette is a very focused and coachable athlete," said Service High head coach Danielle Dalton. "She's a relatively young runner, but she's able to self-critique and reflect on how she can improve her racing tactics and strategies."

Northey will begin her junior year of high school 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 ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, 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.

Northey joins Gatorade Alaska Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Kailey Wilson (2009-10, Kenny Lake School) and two-time winner Leah Francis (2007-08 & 2008-09, Juneau-Douglas) 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 playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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