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**WOODSTOCK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Kayla Beattie of Woodstock High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Illinois Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Beattie is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Woodstock 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 Beattie as Illinois'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, Beattie 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-6 senior raced to the Class AA individual state championship this past season with a course-record time of 16:22. Beattie also won the Peoria Woodruff Invitational, the Rose Byrne Festival and the Nike Cross Nationals Midwest Regional championships (in 17:48). Nationally, she captured 12th at the NXN Final in 19:08.6, and 12th at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 17:58, earning All-American status in the process. Beattie was one of only three runners in the country to place among the top 15 competitors at both national elite championships.

Beattie has maintained a 4.80 GPA in the classroom. A mentor and peer tutor in her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an area homeless shelter and the Salvation Army.

"She had to recover from Lyme Disease early in the year, but she worked her way back into form and had an extremely successful season," said Woodstock High assistant coach Bill Macaulay. "She's been an absolute joy to coach for four years."

Beattie has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at the University of Iowa 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 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.

Beattie joins Gatorade Illinois Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Lavinia Jurkiewicz (2009-10, Whitney M. Young Magnet), Lindsay Flanagan (2008-09, Lake Park), and Kristin Sutherland (2007-08, Carl Sandburg) 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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