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**NERINX HALL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MISSOURI GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 13, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Colleen Quigley of Nerinx Hall as its 2010-11 Gatorade Missouri Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Quigley is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Nerinx Hall.

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 Quigley as Missouri'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, Quigley 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-9 senior raced to a third-place finish at the Class 4 state meet this past season with a time of 18:25.14, leading the Markers to fifth place as a team. A DyeStat Cross Country Top 25 series Honorable Mention selection, Quigley placed ninth at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships in 17:38.10, then finished 19th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships this past fall. She captured first place at the Fleet Feet Kickoff, Forest Park Festival, Edwardsville Invitational and Richard Clark Invitational as well as in her district and sectional meets this past fall. Quigley finished third at the 2009 Class 4 state meet as a junior and 19th at the 2008 Class 4 state meet as a sophomore.

Quigley has maintained a 4.01 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered as a math tutor at Midtown Catholic Charities, as a summer camp instructor for the Inter-community Housing Association and as a fundraiser on behalf of the Almost Home shelter for teenage mothers and their children.

"She's been very impressive," said Nerinx Hall head coach James Belle. "She had a winning attitude. She had a will to win and believed nobody could beat her. It was a great attitude. She worked very hard and followed the game plan on how to run a race. She developed a unique style for herself, and it paid off well for her."

Quigley 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 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.

Quigley joins Gatorade Missouri Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year two-time winner Emily Sisson (2008-09 & 2009-10, Parkway Central) and Diane Robison (2007-08, Parkway Central) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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