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**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Caroline Hardin of Bozeman High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Montana Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Hardin is the second Gatorade Montana Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman 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 Hardin as Montana'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, Hardin 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-2 freshman raced to the Class AA individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:30, leading the Hawks to first place as a team. A DyeStat Cross Country Top 25 series Honorable Mention selection, Hardin placed fourth at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships in 18:01.00, then finished ninth at the Nike Cross Nationals Final in 18:53.50. Hardin also won the Mountain West Classic in 17:38.74 and the Great Falls Invitational in 18:38.88.

Hardin has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. The class president of her eighth-grade class at Three Forks Middle School, she has donated her time on behalf of her school's Key Club International chapter.

"She definitely was surprising," said Bozeman High head coach Clint May. "I knew when she moved here she would be varsity-caliber, but I didn't have her pegged as our No. 1 runner. The strides she made from her eighth-grade track season were phenomenal, and she made an immediate impact. From our first meet, she was our No. 1 runner, and she continued to improve from there. To have her finish the way she did at nationals was mind-boggling. My highest hope was that she could crack the top 25—to end up ninth just blew my mind away."

Gaillet will begin her sophomore 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.

Hardin joins Gatorade Montana Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year three-time winner Heidi Turner (2007-08, 2008-09 & 2009-10, Bozeman) 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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