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Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**SCOTTSBLUFF HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Aubree Worden of Scottsbluff High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Worden is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Scottsbluff 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 Worden as Nebraska'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, Worden 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 her third consecutive Class B individual state championship this past season with a time of 14:22.2, breaking the tape more than 30 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Bearcats to a third place as a team. The returning Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Worden finished with the fastest state meet time in all classifications for the second straight year and set a state meet record in 2010, breaking the mark owned by former Marian High standout Emily Sisson (14:25 in 2007).

Worden has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her school's Letterman's Club and Spanish Club, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Aubree Worden is the best runner to come out of Nebraska in a long time," said Kurt Holliday, Seward High head coach. "She is as dedicated to the sport as anyone I have ever seen."

Worden remains undecided upon a college 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.

Two-time winner Worden joins Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Runners of the Kelli Budd (2008-09, Marian), and Emily Sisson (2007-08, Millard North) 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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