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**JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Annamarie Maag of Jesuit High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Maag is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Jesuit 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 Maag as Oregon'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, Maag 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 her third straight Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 18:11, leading the Crusaders to the state title as a team. Maag finished third at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships in 17:52.1 and was 15th at the NXN Final with a time of 19:21.1. She also earned victories at the Bill Chapman Invitational and the Metro League Championships.

Maag has maintained a 3.39 GPA in the classroom. A talented pianist, she has volunteered at a local soup kitchen and at an assisted living facility.

"Annamarie has the unique ability to inspire her teammates while being a tremendous competitor," said Jesuit head coach Tom Rothenberger "Despite her individual success, she remains the ultimate team player."

Maag 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.

Two-time winner Maag joins Gatorade Oregon Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year two-time winner Taylor Wallace (2007-08 & 2008-09, Henley) 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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