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DANIEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Sinead Haughey of Daniel High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Haughey is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Daniel 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 Haughey as South Carolina'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, Haughey 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-4 senior raced to her third Class AAA individual state championship in the past four seasons with a time of 18:40.00, leading the Lions to third place as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Haughey placed 79th at the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 18:59.00. She also captured first place at the Cavalier Classic and the Region 1-AAA meet this past fall. Haughey won the 2007 and 2009 Class AAA state meets as a junior and freshman.

Haughey has maintained a 4.48 weighted GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. The recipient of the 2002 Governor's Citizenship Award, she has volunteered on behalf of her local National Beta Club chapter in addition to collecting gifts and clothing for the underprivileged. Also a talented artist, Haughey has attended The Lakes and Mountains School for the Arts by invitation.

"When it mattered, she ran very well," said Daniel High Brock Bailey. "She's a quiet leader. She doesn't say a whole lot, but she leads by example. When she speaks, the team listens. She's one of those hard-nosed, blue-collar types of runners. She has a lot of natural ability, but she works hard. Those things combined have served her well."

Haughey 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 Haughey joins Gatorade South Carolina Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Tameka Jackson (2008-09, Seneca), and Mary Kate DuBard (2007-08, Northwestern) 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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