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**GLACIER PEAK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Amy-Eloise Neale of Glacier Peak High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Neale is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Glacier Peak 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 Neale as Washington'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, Neale 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-10 sophomore raced to her second consecutive Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a course-record time of 17:31.8, leading the Grizzlies to the state title as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Neale also captured third at the Nike Cross Nationals Final in 18:48.8. She earned victories at the Sunfair Invitational and the Lakewood Hole-in-the-Wall Invitational and was second at the NXN Northwest Regional championships in 17:45.

Neale has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician, she has volunteered locally on behalf of area food banks.

"Amy-Eloise took a much-needed rest after the Junior Olympic Nationals," said Glacier Peak head coach Dan Parker. "She was two weeks late starting training for the high school season and got off to a slow start ... but once she rounded into shape, it was lights out."

Neale will begin her junior 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.

Two-time winner Neale joins Gatorade Washington Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Alyssa Andrews (2008-09, Gig Harbor), and Andrea Nelson (2007-08, Shadle Park) 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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