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**PHILIP BARBOUR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Sarah McCauley of Philip Barbour High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. McCauley is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Philip Barbour 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 McCauley as West Virginia'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, McCauley 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 the Class AA individual state championship this past season, finishing nearly 30 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Colts to the state team title. A 2010 First Team All-Conference selection, McCauley was also the fastest West Virginia runner at the Foot Locker South Regional championships, finishing 53rd in 18:32.94.

McCauley has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom. The vice president of her school's student council, she is a devoted member of her church choir and has volunteered locally as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Sarah McCauley is a competitor in every sense of the word," said Philip Barbour head coach Melissa Kaiser. "Everything she does is designed to help her compete at the highest level possible and make herself a better runner and person."

McCauley 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.

McCauley joins Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Alex Dent (2009-10, Hurricane), and two-time winner Letitia Propst (2007-08 & 2008-09, Elkins) 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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