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**NOTRE DAME DE LA BAIE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Allison Woodward of Notre Dame de la Baie Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Woodward is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Notre Dame de la Baie Academy.

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 Woodward as Wisconsin'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, Woodward 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 captured first place at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional championships this past season, breaking the tape in 17:18.6. Woodward also won the 2010 Nike Cross Nationals Heartland Regional championships with a time of 17:35. The 2010 Green Bay Press Gazette Female Athlete of the Year, she raced to the Division 2 individual state title with a time of 13:59.53, setting a state meet record and finishing more the 30 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor. With her regional performance, Woodward became the first Wisconsin runner since 1985 to qualify for the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, where she finished fifth with a time of 17:37, earning All-American status. She also took 14th place at the 2010 Nike Cross Nationals Final in 19:11.4.

Woodward has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. An accomplished classical pianist and ballet student, she is a four-year member of her school's student government and has volunteered locally as a youth mentor.

"Allison Woodward is one of the finest student athletes I have ever coached," said Notre Dame de la Baie head coach John Gard. "This was her first year ever running cross country and she was able to accomplish some really incredible things."

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.

Woodward joins Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Marya Haegler (2009-10, Winnebago Lutheran Academy), Morgan Sickels (2008-09, Catholic Memorial), and Ashley Beutler (2007-08, New Glarus) 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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