

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**CHEYENNE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WYOMING 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 Jessica Lemaster of Cheyenne Central High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Lemaster is the first Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Cheyenne Central 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 Lemaster as Wyoming'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, Lemaster 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-5 senior raced to a second-place finish at the Class 4A state meet this past season with a time of 19:54.23, leading the Indians to second place as a team. The 2007-08 Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Lemaster won the 2010 Casper Invitational in 20:48.97, breaking the tape more than a minute ahead of her next-closest competitor. Lemaster also clocked a personal-best at the Liberty Bell Invitational in September, taking 11th in 19:04.

Lemaster has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. She is a member of DECA and has volunteered locally on behalf of area homeless shelters.

"Jessica Lemaster is one of the most driven, relentless and tenacious runners I have ever coached," said Cheyenne Central High head coach Rick Bishop. "When she sets a goal, she works incredibly hard until she accomplishes it."

Lemaster 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.

Two-time winner Lemaster joins Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Dana Morin (2009-10, Sheridan), and Nicole Peterson (2008-09, Rock Springs) 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.

###