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**SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 20, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Silas Talbot of Service High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Talbot is the first Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Service 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 Talbot as Alaska's best high school boys cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Talbot 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 6-foot senior raced to the Class 4A individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:02, leading the Cougars to the state title as a team. Talbot also won the Region 4 Championship meet, placed second at both the Lynx Invitational and the Skyview Invitational, and finished third at Oregon's Concordia/Puma Classic.

Talbot has maintained a 4.03 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered on mission trips to Guatemala, bringing medical supplies to rural areas.

"Silas handles pressure and nerves with a grace and calm that is incredibly rare," said Service head coach Danielle Dalton. "His positive attitude and excitement towards racing is infectious amongst his teammates."

Talbot will attend Dartmouth College this fall, where he will compete in cross country and track and field.

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.

Talbot joins Gatorade Alaska Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jacob Kirk (2009-10, Grace Christian School), and two-time winner Trevor Dunbar (2008-09 & 2007-08, Kodiak) 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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