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**TUBA CITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA 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 Billy Orman of Tuba City High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Orman is the first Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Tuba City 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 Orman as Arizona'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, Orman 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-1 senior raced to his second consecutive Division 3 individual state championship this past season with a course-record time of 15:04. Orman also won the Foot Locker West Regional championships in 15:28 and finished sixth at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, earning All-American status. He also captured victories at the Nike Cross Nationals Southwest Regional championships (in 15:05.61) and the Desert Twilight Cross Country Festival.

Orman has maintained a 4.33 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth soccer programs and an area animal shelter.

"I figured he would improve on his times this year, but I didn't expect him to be breaking records like he did," said Tuba City head coach Arvis Myron. "He's had a plan since his freshman year and he followed it and did what needed to be done."

Orman remains undecided upon a collegiate 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.

Orman joins Gatorade Arizona Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year two-time winner Brian Shrader (2009-10 & 2008-09, Sinagua), and Jim Walmsley (2007-08, Horizon) 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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