

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**FAIRFIELD COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Connor Rog of Fairfield College Preparatory School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Rog is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Fairfield College Preparatory 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 Rog as Connecticut'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, Rog 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 junior raced to the Class LL individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:58, leading the Jesuits to fourth as a team. Rog was the top Connecticut finisher at the New England Cross Country Championships, taking third overall in 16:35.6, and was second at the State Open Championships. He captured victories at the Wickham Park Invitational, the Bethel Invitational and the Southern Connecticut Conference Championships.

Rog has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician, he has volunteered locally with a community beautification project, and has raised funds to support cancer survivors.

"Connor is very tough," said Fairfield Prep head coach Robert Ford Jr. "He has a great start, a great heart, and he never gives up. He's also a very team-oriented runner, and very respectful of others."

Rog will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

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.

Rog joins Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year two-time winner John Raneri (2009-10 & 2008-09, New Fairfield), and Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury) 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.

###