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**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 20, 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 Jimmy Clark of Creekside High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Florida Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Clark is the first Gatorade Florida Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Creekside 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 Clark as Florida'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, Clark 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-7 senior raced to the Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a course-record time of 14:58.87. Clark won the Foot Locker South Regional championships in 14:55, and was seventh at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:24, earning All-American status. He also captured victories at the flrunners.com Invitational, the Ridgeview Bob Hans Invitational, the Katie Caples Invitational, the Ponte Vedra Invitational, the Middleburg Invitational, the District 2 Championships and the Region 1 Championships.

Clark has maintained a 3.30 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a soccer program for physically challenged children.

"Jimmy is a great competitor," said Creekside head coach Eric Frank. "He embraces challenges and he always gives maximum effort in every race."

Clark has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at the University of Florida beginning 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.

Clark joins Gatorade Florida Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Matt Mizereck (2009-10, Leon), and two-time winner Brian Atkinson (2008-09 & 2007-08, Melbourne) 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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