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**KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS-KAPALAMA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII 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 Jordan Thibodeau of Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Thibodeau is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama 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 Thibodeau as Hawaii'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, Thibodeau 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-10, 155-pound senior raced to a second-place finish at the Hawaii High School Athletic Association state meet this past season with a time of 16:09.55, leading the Warriors to a state title as a team. The 2009 and 2010 Interscholastic League Honolulu Runner of the Year, Thibodeau captured first place at the ILH championship, breaking the tape in 16:35.44. He also set course records at the Punahou Invitational, winning in 16:18.52 and at the Mid-Pac Invitational, finishing with a time of 16:05.59.

Thibodeau has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's physics club, he has volunteered locally on behalf of area community clean-up initiatives and food and clothing drives for area homeless.

"Jordan Thibodeau is an extremely goal-oriented and driven athlete," said Kamehameha High head coach Steve Jenness. "He just constantly pushes forward. He believes he can do anything and he doesn't question his abilities very often."

Thibodeau 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.

Thibodeau joins Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Pierce Murphy (2009-10, Island School), and two-time winner Bryce Jenkins (2008-09 & 2007-08, Leilehua) 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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