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**SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 John Murray of Shrewsbury High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Murray is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Shrewsbury 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 Murray as Massachusetts'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, Murray 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-9, 130-pound senior raced to the Division I individual state championship this past season with a time of 14:04. A two-time team MVP and a five-time Worcester Telegram & Gazette Super Team selection, Murray captured fourth place at the Foot Locker Northeast Regional championships, crossing the line in 14:45.6, and took 21st at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:40. It was the second straight year that Murray qualified to compete at Foot Locker nationals.

Murray has maintained a 3.60 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth mentor and on behalf of fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer and leukemia research.

"John Murray is an extraordinary young man and one of the finest distance runners I've seen in my years of coaching," said Shrewsbury High head coach Jim Smith. "Even with his success, he cares more about his teammates than he does his own accomplishments. He is truly one of a kind."

Murray has verbally committed to an athletic scholarship at Georgetown University 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.

Murray joins Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Patrick McGowan (2009-10, Mansfield), Mike Moverman (2008-09, Oliver Ames), and Robert Gibson (2007-08, Brookline) 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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