

**OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Chad Moore of Oak Grove High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Moore is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Oak Grove 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 Moore as Mississippi'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, Moore 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-2 senior raced to the Class 6A individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:00.50, leading the Warriors to fourth place as a team. An ESPN RISE/DyeStat Cross Country Top 25 series Honorable Mention selection, Moore captured first place at the Oak Grove Running Festival, the Poplarville Early Season Meet, the Southern Miss Invitational, the Golden Eagle Classic, the Ocean Springs Invitational, the George County Nature Trail Challenge and the Division 5-6A meet this past fall. He placed second at Alabama's Mobile Challenge of Champions, clocking the state's fastest time at the event. He finished fourth at the 2009 Class 6A state meet as a junior.

Moore has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of the local Young Republicans National Federation and faith-based First Priority chapters, as well as his church's youth group, he has volunteered as part of a service-mission trip to Tennessee in addition to donating his time as a youth running instructor.

"Within the state of Mississippi, Chad won against all his competition," said Oak Grove High head coach Robin Ryder. "Every race he ran, he won. He dominated every meet with the exception of two in Alabama, where he did well. He ran away from everybody at the state meet and won by 24 seconds. He's such a hard worker that it all came together for him at the end."

Moore 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.

Moore joins Gatorade Mississippi Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year three-time Max Holman (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Tupelo) 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.

###