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**SENTINEL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Jacob Turner of Sentinel High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Turner is the first Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Sentinel 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 Turner as Montana'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, Turner 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 a the Class AA individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:34, leading the Spartans to second place as a team. A Class AA All-State qualifier, Turner placed 65th at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships in 16:43.10 in addition to finishing 70th at the Foot Locker West Regional championships in 16:50. He captured first place at the Great Falls Invitational and the Missoula City Meet this past fall. He finished 25th at the 2009 Class AA state meet as a junior.

Also a track standout, Turner has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. A recipient of the Missoula County Public Schools Board of Trustees Student Recognition Award, he has volunteered as part of community-service initiatives on behalf of the National Honor Society.

"Jacob is a disciplined person, student and runner," said Sentinel High head coach David Hamilton. "He has great success with instinctively knowing when to be patient and when to take a risk as a person, as a student, and especially in competition."

Turner 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.

Turner joins Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Mike Asay (2009-10, Manhattan), Drew Coco (2008-09, Whitefish), and Patrick Casey (2007-08, Laurel) 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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