

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Nick Hartle of Centennial High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Hartle is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Hartle as Nevada'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, Hartle 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-1 junior raced to the Class 4A individual state championship this past season with a time of 16:28, leading the Bulldogs to the state title as a team. Hartle also captured victories at the Sunset Region Championships, the Canyon Cowboy Invitational, the Larry Burgess Las Vegas Invitational, the Labor Day Classic and the Lake Mead Invitational. He finished 11th at the Nike Cross Nationals Southwest Regional championships.

Hartle has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered as a peer tutor in his school.

"Nick is an amazing young man who excels in everything he does," said Centennial head coach Mike McGuire. "He's been a huge factor in our success as a team. He motivates the other kids to really rise above."

Hartle will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Hartle joins Gatorade Nevada Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year two-time winner Wade Meddles (2009-10 & 2008-09, Sierra Lutheran), and Bryan Tibaduiza (2007-08, Galena) 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.

###