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Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**THE PACKER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Edward Owens of The Packer Collegiate Institute as its 2010-11 Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Owens is the first Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from The Packer Collegiate Institute.

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 Owens as New York'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, Owens 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-8 senior raced to the New York Federation Championship this past season with a time of 15:43.9. Owens also finished 8th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in 15:25, earning All-American status. He captured regular-season victories at the Collegiate Invitational, the Section 1 Coaches Invitational, the Mayor's Cup Championship and the varsity F race of the Manhattan Invitational.

Owens has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. A dedicated member of his church community, he has volunteered locally distributing food to needy families, visiting home-bound senior citizens and tutoring students in Latin.

"Eddie has the heart of a champion," said Packer Collegiate head coach Jeremy Busch. "He understands what it takes to win. He's competitive and he never gives up. He will fight to the finish line."

Owens will attend Princeton University this fall, where he will compete in cross country and track and field.

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.

Owens joins Gatorade New York Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Alex Deir (2009-10, Honeoye Falls-Lima), Joe Whelan (2008-09, Hamburg), and Patrick Dupont (2007-08, Fairport) 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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