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**BISHOP HENDRICKEN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Ryan Meehan of Bishop Hendricken High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Meehan is the second Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Bishop Hendricken 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 Meehan as Rhode Island'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, Meehan 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 second-place finish at the All-State Meet this past season with a time of 15:37.57, leading the Hawks to first place as a team. Meehan placed 13th at the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast Regional in 16:29.8 in addition to finishing 15th at the New England Cross Country Championships in 17:13.5. He also captured second place at the Class A divisional meet in 15:50.1. Meehan placed fifth at both the Reebok Manhattan Invitational and the Great American Cross Country Festival in addition to finishing sixth at the Manchester Invitational, clocking the state's fastest time at all three events. He finished 10th at the 2009 All-State Meet as a junior.

Meehan has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom, ranks No. 2 in his graduating class and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. He has donated his time as a peer minister and leader in his school's faith community.

"He's probably one of the most outstanding scholar-athletes in school history," said Bishop Hendricken High head coach Jim Doyle. "He ranks No. 2 of 220 in his class and is Harvard-bound, but he's quiet and unassuming despite his many successes. He has a tremendous work ethic in class and on the track. He's a tremendous competitor."

Meehan will attend Harvard University 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.

Meehan joins Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jake Sienko (2009-10, Bishop Hendricken), Andrew Springer (2008-09, Westerly), and Nick Ross (2007-08, East Greenwich) 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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