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Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**AMERICAN FORK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Clayton Young of American Fork High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Utah Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Young is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from American Fork 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 Young as Utah'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, Young 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-10 junior raced to the Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:23.9, leading the Cavemen to the state title as a team. Young also finished fifth at the Nike Cross Nationals Southwest Regional championships in 15:28, and recorded regular-season wins at the Wasatch Invitational and the Nebo Invitational.

Young has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. An Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, he has volunteered at area retirement homes and a local rehabilitation center.

"Clayton has worked really hard ever since his freshman year," said American Fork head coach Timo Mostert. "He's always had a leader pulling him along, and when Austin West was injured this year, Clayton became a team leader himself."

Young 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.

Young joins Gatorade Utah Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Austin West (2009-10, American Fork), Jonathan Nelson (2008-09, Timpview), and Luke Puskedra (2007-08, Judge Memorial Catholic) 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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