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**COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Brendan Copley of Colchester High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Copley is the first Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Colchester 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 Copley as Vermont'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, Copley 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 Division I individual state championship this past season with a time of 17:26. Copley also recorded wins at the Essex Invitational and the U-32 Invitational, and was the top Vermont finisher at the New England Cross Country Championships, 13th overall.

Copley has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives and a program that provides shoes for children in Africa.

"Brendan is a hard worker who has a true passion for running," said Colchester head coach Morgan Samler. "Winning the state meet as a junior this year was a statement about the type of runner and person he is."

Copley 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.

Copley joins Gatorade Vermont Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year David Sinclair (2009-10, Green Mountain Valley School), Adron Pitmon (2008-09, Mt. Mansfield Union), and Kyle Powers (2007-08, St. Johnsbury Academy) 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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