

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**PLAINVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 12, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN HS, today announced Alex Davis of Plainview High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. Davis is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Plainview 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 Davis as Oklahoma's best high school girls cross country runner. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year award to be announced in January, Davis 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.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-7 junior raced to the Class 3A individual state championship this past season with a time of 11:25 over the 3,200-meter course, breaking the tape 39 seconds ahead of her next-closest competitor and leading the Indians to the state title as a team. Davis placed third in the 2011 Nike Cross Nationals South Regional championships, clocking an 18:19, and took 37th at the 2011 Nike Cross Nationals Final in 18:35. She also won the Oklahoma Meet of Champions and the Arkansas/Oklahoma Allstar meet.

Davis has maintained a 3.79 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at an area food bank and as a youth mentor, and founded a mission project in her neighborhood to assist the elderly.

"She competes on a small school level but is a very tough competitor with the big schools," said Mike Stanton, head coach of Union High. "She won the Oklahoma Meet of Champions and the Arkansas/Oklahoma Allstar meet. She had a great year."

Davis will begin her 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 HS 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.

Davis joins Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runners of the Year Noemi Hernandez (2010-11, Westmoore High School), Jori Davis (2009-10, Piedmont), Andrea Lewis (2008-09, Bishop Kelley), and Sara Vaughn (2007-08, Union) 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.

###