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**BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA BOYS CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 23, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Jakob Woodland of Bozeman HS as its 2011-12 Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Woodland is the first Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Bozeman HS.

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 Woodland as Montana'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, Woodland 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-9 senior raced to the Class AA individual state championship with a time of 15:20.65 this past season, leading the Hawks to first place as a team. A three-time recipient of his team's Top Hawk Award, Woodland placed 21st at the Nike Cross Nationals Midwest Regional championships in 16:14.40. He took 24th at the 2010 NXN Midwest Regional championships as a junior.

Also a track standout, Woodland has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered on behalf of his school's Key Club International chapter and the Family Promise organization to benefit the homeless.

"Jakob has incredible resilience through adversity," said Bozeman head coach Clint May. "He has overcome several injuries and challenges over the past few years. Even this fall, he overcame the effects of the flu during the week he won state."

Woodland remains undecided upon a collegiate destination.

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 ESPNHS 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.

Woodland joins Gatorade Montana Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Jacob Turner (2010-11, Sentinel High School), Mike Asay (2009-10, Manhattan), Drew Coco (2008-09, Whitefish), and Patrick Casey (2007-08, Laurel) 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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