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**SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Travis Neuman of Summit HS as its 2011-12 Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year. Neuman is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year to be chosen from Summit 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 Neuman as Oregon'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, Neuman 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-8 junior raced to the Class 5A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:32, leading the Storm to the state title as a team. Neuman earned victories at the Concordia Adidas Classic, the Harrier Classic and the Oxford Classic, while finishing seventh at the Nike Cross Nationals Northwest Regional championships.

Neuman has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. A member of the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, he has volunteered on behalf of Sparrow Clubs USA and school environmental initiatives.

"Travis is incredibly hard-working and intelligent," said Summit head coach Dave Clark. "He's an absolute joy to coach and has been a very positive role model for his teammates."

Neuman 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 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.

Neuman joins Gatorade Oregon Boys Cross Country Runners of the Year Matthew Melancon (2010-11, Sheldon High School), Drew Jordan (2009-10, North Medford), Elliott Jantzer (2008-09, Phoenix), and Bryce Burgess (2007-08, Franklin) 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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