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**SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Silas Talbot of Service High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track, distinguishes Talbot as Alaska's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Talbot joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego 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.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The junior distance runner and field athlete won the 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:19.29 and the 3,200-meter run in 9:20.41 at this spring's Class 4A state championship meet, leading the Cougars to second place as a team. The Class 4A State Track & Field Championships Outstanding Competitor, Talbot also placed second in the triple jump with a leap of 42 feet, 3.75 inches and ran the first leg of the winning 4x800-meter relay squad that finished in 7:54.39. Also a member of the state championship 4x800 relay as a junior, he finished fourth in the 1,600, sixth in the 3,200 and eighth in the 800 at the 2009 Class 4A state championship meet.

Talbot has maintained a 4.03 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth track and field instructor and on behalf of the American Heart Association's Heart Run.

"He's a phenomenal athlete," said Service Head Coach Cortney Edwards. "He's an unbelievable athlete. Silas is just a natural. His endurance level and ability to perform is just totally natural. It's incredible. For him to focus the way he does is just phenomenal."

Talbot 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.

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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