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**SINAGUA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA 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 Brian Shrader of Sinagua High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Arizona 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 Shrader as Arizona'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, Shrader 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 state's two-time Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Shrader won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:51.54, the 1,600-meter run in 4:13.48 and the 3,200-meter run in 9:14.40 at the Class 4A, Division II state championship meet this spring, leading the Mustangs to fourth place as a team. Also the Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year as named by *The Arizona Republic*, the 5-foot-11 senior middle-distance and distance runner anchored the winning 4x800-meter relay squad that finished in 8:05.68 at the state meet. Shrader broke the tape in the 1,600 and 3,200 at the Class 4A, Division II state meet for the third consecutive year in addition to winning the 800 for the second straight season. His 3,200-meter time of 8:53.09 at the Arcadia Invitational ranked No. 5 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of his selection.

Shrader has maintained a 3.78 unweighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered locally feeding the homeless and on behalf of the United Way.

"When he first walked on the track his freshman year, we knew we had something special," said Sinagua Head Coach Walter Taite. "His work ethic even in his freshman year was exceptional. From Day 1, he embraced the sport. You could tell he had a lot of talent and potential. It's what he was made to do. It's how he's built. You get an athlete of that kind of caliber maybe once or twice in your career. The last two years, he's been absolutely dominant."

Shrader has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Oregon beginning 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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