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**VALENCIA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® CALIFORNIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Sean Krinik of Valencia High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Krinik is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Valencia 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 track, distinguishes Krinik as California'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, Krinik 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 5-foot-8 senior middle-distance runner won the 800-meter run for the second consecutive season with a time of 1:48.20 at the California Interscholastic Federation state meet this spring. The 2010 Male Athlete of the Year as named by the *The Orange County Register*, Krinik's 800 time ranked No. 1 in the nation this season and No. 8 in history among prep competitors at the time of his selection. He also ran the country's 26th-fastest mile time in 2010, finishing in 4:14.1 at the Arcadia Invitational. Krinik recorded the nation's No. 46 performance in the 1,600-meter race, breaking the tape in 4:11.82 at the Orange County Championships.

Krinik has maintained a 3.42 weighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, the Meals on Wheels Association of America and the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.

"Someone like Sean Krinik only comes around once in a coach's career," said Valencia Head Coach Patricia Hadley. "He's been undefeated in two seasons, and in a tough state like California that really does mean something. He doesn't allow himself to lose. Champions figure out a way to make it their day, and he does that. He doesn't make excuses. He combines his natural speed with a fantastic work ethic. As a person and an athlete, he makes everything seem fun and draws people to him like a magnet. He brings the best out in everybody."

Krinik has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Washington 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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