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**CENTER GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Austin Mudd of Center Grove High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Mudd is the first Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Center Grove 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 Mudd as Indiana'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, Mudd 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-9 junior captured the state title in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:51.01 this past season. Mudd also captured the 800-meter run at the Midwest Distance Gala in 1:50.89, the No. 11 time in the country at the time of his selection.

Mudd has maintained a weighted 3.28 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered with local youth track programs and on behalf of church service-mission trips to rural Kentucky.

"Austin is always doing more than what is expected," said Center Grove Assistant Coach Howard Harrell. "His work ethic is why he climbed to the top of the state podium this year."

Mudd 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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