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**FALMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MASSACHUSETTS 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 Sam Bombaugh of Falmouth High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bombaugh is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Falmouth 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 Bombaugh as Massachusetts' 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, Bombaugh 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 6-foot senior field athlete won the shot put for a second consecutive season with an effort of 60 feet, 7 inches in addition to finishing seventh in the discus at 153 feet, 5 inches at the All-State meet this spring, leading the Clippers to fourth place as a team. A returning Outdoor Track & Field All-Scholastic selection as named by *The Boston Globe*, Bombaugh captured second place in the shot put at the New England Outdoor Track & Field Championships. His shot put distance of 63 feet, 3.25 inches at the Eastern Massachusetts Division 2 meet ranked No. 16 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of his selection. Bombaugh also finished third in the shot put at the Nike Indoor Nationals this past winter.

Bombaugh has maintained a 3.49 unweighted GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth track and field instructor and in association with the annual CIGNA Falmouth Road Race.

"I think for our track program in general he's been a tremendous asset with his work ethic," said Falmouth Head Coach Bill Kulis. "You don't get to be a 60-foot-plus thrower without hard work. He's the first one to practice and the last to leave. He's always doing the little extra things to take advantage of his talent. It's one thing to have talent, but it's another to develop that talent. He's put a lot of time and work into being one of the best in the country."

Bombaugh has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Louisville 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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