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**GOVERNOR THOMAS JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND 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 Marquis Woodyard of Governor Thomas Johnson High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Woodyard is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Governor Thomas Johnson 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 Woodyard as Maryland'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, Woodyard 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 returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Woodyard won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.14 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles in 38.62 seconds at the Class 4A state meet for the second consecutive season, leading the Patriots to the state championship as a team this spring. A returning First Team All-State selection as named by *Running Maryland*, the 5-foot-10 senior hurdler also anchored the winning 4x200-meter relay squad that finished in 1:28.09. His time of 14.07 seconds in the 110-meter hurdles during the preliminary round ranked No. 22 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of his selection. Woodyard finished third in the 60-meter hurdles at the Nike Indoor Nationals this past winter.

Also a football standout, Woodyard has maintained a 3.14 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of his church's teen choir and vice president of the school's African-American academic achievement Necktie Club, he has volunteered locally as part of a county-wide beautification project and as a youth football and track and field instructor.

"He's always willing to step up, dig deeper and pull out that little extra that he needs," said Governor Thomas Johnson Head Coach Nick Snyder. "A lot of people say they refuse to lose, but he backs that up. No matter what, when he has the baton in his hand, I know that if he doesn't win he's going to make sure the person that beats him has an amazing time. He goes all out every single time. He's been a catalyst for a lot of what we've been able to do here the last couple years. He's gotten the ball rolling with his success."

Woodyard has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at James Madison University 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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