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**GRAND BLANC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MICHIGAN 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 Omar Kaddurah of Grand Blanc High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Kaddurah is the first Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Grand Blanc 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 Kaddurah as Michigan'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, Kaddurah 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-6 junior set a state championship meet record of 4:07.67 in the 1,600-meter run to win the Div. I title this past season. Kaddurah also won the regional championship in 4:07.20, the No. 3 time in the nation at the time of his selection and the second-fastest time by any junior in state history.

Kaddurah has maintained an unweighted 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a tutor in his school.

"I've coached 38 All-State athletes and two state champions, and Omar Kaddurah is the best track runner I've seen yet," said Grand Blanc Head Coach Ed Stanbury. "He's a great student and a great teammate too."

Kaddurah 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.

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