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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MONTANA 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 Scotty Koehler-Owens of Billings Senior High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Koehler-Owens is the first Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Koehler-Owens as Montana'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, Koehler-Owens 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-10, 160-pound junior jumper and sprinter won the long jump and the triple jump at the Class AA state meet and took third in the high jump this spring, leading the Broncos to a fifth-place finish as a team. Koehler-Owens earned gold in the long jump with a leap of 21 feet, 11.5 inches and captured the triple jump with a mark of 44-04.75. Koehler-Owens also won three events at the 2010 Casper Invitational Meet in April, winning the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.08 seconds, the high jump with a clearance of 6 feet, 8 inches and the long jump with a leap of 23-06.50.

Koehler-Owens has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Scotty Koehler-Owens has been such a great leader for us the last two years," said Billings Senior High Head Coach Dennis Johnson. "No one I have ever coached works harder than him. He doesn't cut any corners and he does everything he can to make himself great."

Koehler-Owens 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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