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**EDMOND SANTE FE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® OKLAHOMA 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 Gunnar Nixon of Edmond Sante Fe High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Nixon is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Edmond Sante Fe 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 Nixon as Oklahoma'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, Nixon 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-3 junior amassed the second-highest decathlon score in prep history, 7,573 points en route to winning the California's Arcadia Invitational this past season. Nixon also captured the 300-meter hurdles in 38.59 seconds at the Class 6A state meet while finishing second in the 110-meter hurdles and high jump, leading the Wolves to second place as a team. Nixon won the pentathlon at the Nike Indoor Nationals in March and took first in the high jump and 400-meter hurdles at the USA Track & Field Area Youth Olympic Trials in April.

Nixon has maintained an unweighted 3.19 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered on behalf of a local wildlife sanctuary.

"He's one of those athletes coaches dream about but rarely come across," said Edmond Santa Fe Coach Carl Hawkins. "He's extremely motivated, focused and hard-working. He does all of the things you need to do to become successful."

Nixon 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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