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GATORADE® NATIONAL BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:
SAM CROUSER

Standout thrower named nation's best from more than one half million prep boys track & field athletes

PORTLAND, Ore. (June 28, 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 Crouser of Gresham High School (Gresham, Ore.) as its 2009-10 Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year.

By claiming the 221st National Player of the Year trophy to be awarded in the program's 25-year history, Crouser joins the late Art Skipper Jr. (1987-88, Sandy), an NCAA champion javelin thrower, and Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Love (2006-07, Lake Oswego) as the only high school athletes from the state of Oregon to earn Gatorade National Player of the Year recognition in any sport.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Crouser as the nation's best high school boys track & field athlete. A national advisory panel comprised of sport-specific experts and sports journalists helped select Crouser from more than one half million high school track & field athletes nationwide. Crouser is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade Male High School Athlete of the Year award, to be presented at a special afternoon ceremony prior to The ESPY Awards in July.

The 6-foot-5 1/2 senior shattered the national high school and American junior record in the javelin this past season by nearly 14 feet with a throw of 255 feet, 4 inches at the Portland Track Festival earlier this month, eclipsing the 22-year-old previous record. The only boys prep track and field athlete to set a national mark this year, he also swept all three throwing events at Oregon's Class 6A state meet, becoming the second prep boy in state history to earn that triple. His uncle, former two-time U.S. Olympian Brian Crouser, was the other, in 1980.

The state record holder in the javelin, discus and shot put, Crouser won the discus at the Class 6A state meet with a throw of 205 feet, 10 inches, the nation's No. 2 mark among prep competitors in 2010. His season-best shot put effort of 64 feet, 5 inches ranks No. 11 in the country. A 2010 ESPN RISE/dyestat.com Boys Track & Field All-Decade Team selection, Crouser won the javelin event at the 2009 USA Junior Outdoor Championships and earned the bronze medal in 2010. He is the only U.S. prep ever to throw the international javelin more than 250 feet.

Crouser has maintained an unweighted 3.23 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a community clean-up program, the Oregon Zoo, a habitat-restoration initiative at Kelly Creek in Portland and as a teaching assistant for a special needs class at Gresham High.

"Sam is obviously No. 1 all-time in the javelin, but he routinely was able to turn in 60-plus (shot put), 200-plus (discus) and 225-plus (javelin) triples," said Dyestat.com Assistant News Editor Dave Devine. "No one else has ever had that range across the three widely-contested throws. All he did at the Oregon state meet was sweep the throws for the first time in 30 years."

Crouser has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Oregon this fall.

"Without question, Sam is deserving of recognition as the nation's best high school boys track & field athlete based on his statistics on the field and the impact his accomplishments have had on Gresham's success," said Gatorade Senior Vice President of Sports Marketing Jennifer Storms. "But he is also a shining example to peers and aspiring young athletes of what a leader and a student-athlete should be. He represents everything we hope for in a Gatorade Player of the Year recipient."

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 celebrate the award's 25th anniversary, Gatorade wants you to vote for the All-Time Greatest Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year at www.gatorade.com/POY25. For more information on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of former winners, and future announcement dates, visit the Gatorade Player of the Year Web site at <http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com>, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

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ALL-TIME GATORADE NATIONAL BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

YEAR	NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	STATUS
2009-10	Sam Crouser	Gresham, Gresham, OR	High School Senior
2008-09	Curtis Beach	Albuquerque Academy, Albuquerque, NM	Duke University
2007-08	German Fernandez	Riverbank, Riverbank, CA	Oklahoma State University
2006-07	Bryshon Nellum	Long Beach Poly, Long Beach, CA	USC
2005-06	David Klech	California, San Ramon, CA	UCLA
2004-05	Ryan Whiting	Central Dauphin, Harrisburg, PA	Arizona State University
2003-04	Jason Richardson	Cedar Hill, Cedar Hill, TX	USA Track & Field/Nike
2002-03	Kerron Clement	La Porte, La Porte TX	USA Track & Field/Nike
2001-02	Brendan Christian	Reagan, Austin, TX	Antigua & Barbuda Nat'l
2000-01	Alan Webb	South Lakes, Reston, VA	USA Track & Field/Nike
1999-00	Donald Sage, Jr.	York, Elmhurst, IL	Stanford Univ. Grad.
1998-99	Jacob Freeman	Bishop Hendricken, RI	Manhattan College Grad.
1997-98	Jon Stevens	Mission San Jose, Fremont, CA	Stanford Univ. Grad.
1996-97	Sharif Karie	West Springfield, Springfield, VA	Univ. of Arkansas Grad.
1995-96	Michael Granville	Bell Gardens, Bell Gardens, CA	UCLA Grad.
1994-95	Michael Stember	Jesuit, Carmichael, CA	USA Track & Field/Nike
1993-94	Andre Scott	Seminole, Sanford, FL	Auburn Univ. Grad.
1992-93	Charles Mitchell	Waco High, Waco, TX	Mississippi State Univ. Grad.
1991-92	Sheddrick Fields	South Oak Cliff, Dallas, TX	Univ. of Houston Grad.
1990-91	Bryan Bronson	Jasper, Jasper, TX	Rice Univ. Grad.
1989-90	Brent Noon	Fallbrook, Fallbrook, CA	Univ. of Georgia Grad.
1988-89	Dion Bentley	Penn Hills, Pittsburgh, PA	Univ. of Florida Grad.
1987-88	Art Skipper, Jr.	Sandy, Sandy, OR	Deceased
1986-87	Kamy Keshmiri	Reno, Reno, NV	Univ. of Nevada Grad.
1985-86	Eric Mastalir	Jesuit, Carmichael, CA	Stanford Univ. Grad.