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**DREHER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Brandon Sanders of Dreher High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year.

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 Sanders as South Carolina'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, Sanders 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, the 5-foot-10, 160-pound sophomore won the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash for the second straight year at this spring's Class AAA state meet, leading the Blue Devils to 12th place as a team. A member of the USA Track & Field World Youth Team, Sanders won the 100 with a time of 10.77 seconds and the 200 in 21.23. The 2008 Junior Olympic National Youth Boys gold medalist in the 100 and 200 did not lose a race in South Carolina this outdoor season.

Sanders has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at Richland Memorial Hospital as well as on behalf of youth literacy programs and the Meals on Wheels program.

"Brandon Sanders, there's a young phenom," said John Javis, head coach of rival Eau Claire High. "He works tremendously hard. He has tremendous focus for what he wants and what he wants to get done."

Sanders will begin his junior 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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