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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**TAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® WASHINGTON 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 Derek Eager of Tahoma High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Eager is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Tahoma 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 Eager as Washington'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, Eager 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-5, 230-pound senior won the discus and javelin and placed second in the shot put at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Bears to fourth place as a team. The 2009 USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships javelin champion, Eager launched a throw of 229 feet, 5 inches at the Pasco Invitational on April 17, which ranked No. 3 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of his selection. Only eight high school athletes have ever thrown the javelin farther. Eager's best discus throw of 187-0 ranked No. 28 and his best shot put of 58-6.25 ranked No. 85 in the nation among prep competitors in 2010.

Eager has maintained an unweighted 3.73 GPA in the classroom. A Distinguished Honors graduate from Tahoma High, he has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and as a camp counselor. Eager also organized and ran Washington's Best Throwers Camp, in which he brought several former Olympians to Seattle for a one-day clinic.

"Derek Eager is an exceptionally gifted athlete, his marks alone put him in the elite class of throwers nation-wide," said Justin Buckner, assistant coach at rival Kentwood High. "Few athletes can excel in a single throwing event, even fewer can excel in two. But to excel in all three is just simply unheard of."

Eager has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at UCLA beginning 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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