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**SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 23, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Elliott Bauer of South Anchorage High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bauer is the first Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Bauer as Alaska'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, Bauer joins an elite alumni association of 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.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 5-foot-8 senior won three individual state championships and one relay title at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Wolverines to third place as a team. Bauer broke the tape in the 110-meter hurdles with a state-record time of 14.64 seconds and captured the 300-meter hurdles in a state-record 38.58, which ranked as the Northwest's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. Named Most Outstanding Athlete at the Class 4A state meet, Bauer finished first in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.32 in addition to running the lead leg for the winning 4x100-meter relay quartet that finished in 44.13 seconds. He also won the 110- and 300-meter hurdles at the 2009 Class 4A state meet as a sophomore.

Bauer has maintained a 3.82 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time locally as a youth camp counselor, he has participated in the annual Light the Night Walk to benefit Leukemia research.

"He was out to try to beat our hurdles coach Trevor Millar's records, and he blew them away," said South Anchorage High head coach John Lewis. "To do that is pretty incredible, especially for his height. His junior year, he got out-stretched by a 6-foot-4 kid, so he dedicated himself to improving. He wasn't going to get any taller, so he needed to get faster. This kid is just phenomenal. He's a little package of explosion."

Bauer has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Alaska Anchorage 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.

Bauer joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Silas Talbot (2009-10, Service), Trevor Dunbar (2008-09, Kodiak), and Jordan Clarke (2007-08, Bartlett) among the state's list of former award winners.

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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