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**ARAPAHOE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO 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 Connor Winter of Arapahoe High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Colorado Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Winter is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Arapahoe 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 Winter as Colorado'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, Winter 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 6-foot senior won the three individual state championships at the Class 5A state meet this spring, leading the Warriors to second place as a team. A two-time First Team All-Colorado selection as named by *The Denver Post*, Winter won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:53.23, captured the 1600-meter run in 4:19.74 and broke the tape in the 3200-meter run in 9:15.51. Winter's 1600 time of 4:05.50 at the Midwest Distance Gala in Illinois ranked as the nation's No. 6 performance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. He also placed first in the 800, 1600 and 3200 at the 2010 Class 5A state meet as a junior.

Also a cross country standout, Winter has maintained a 3.81 weighted GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. A member of the National Honor Society, he has also donated his time locally at the Denver marathon, on behalf of a Vacation Bible School, as a mentor to elementary school students and by helping to feed needy families for Thanksgiving.

"I like bragging about him," said Arapahoe High head coach Stu Lienemann. "What he's accomplished is an unbelievable feat. That aside, he's more of a team guy than I could have ever imagined. Someone that special is often out for himself, but he would've been happier to give up one of those individual titles to help our team win a state title. He's absolutely a leader. He will be missed."

Winter has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Colorado 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.

Winter joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Trevor Brown (2009-10, Wasson) and Mason Finley (2008-09 & 2007-08, Buena Vista) 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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