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THE TATNALL SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Tyler Tate of The Tatnall School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Tate is the second Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from The Tatnall 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 Tate as Delaware'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, Tate 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-7 senior won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:54.93 and anchored the winning 4x800-meter relay quartet that finished in 8:06.35 at the Meet of Champions this spring. The Indoor Track Runner of the Year as named by The News Journal, he broke the tape in the 800 with a meet-record time of 1:53.15 and the 1600-meter run in a meet-record 4:18.36 at the Division II state meet, leading the Hornets to second place as a team. Tate won the 800 at the Division II state meet and the Meet of Champions in each of the past three seasons. He also captured the 1600 title and anchored the winning 4x800-meter relay squad at the 2010 Division II state meet as a junior.

Tate has maintained a B average in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, the Special Olympics, the Salvation Army, the Ronald McDonald House Charities and Jack and Jill of America, a youth empowerment organization.

"He had his finest season," said Tatnall School head coach Pat Castagno. "An argument could be made that he's the most decorated high school runner in Delaware history. He qualified for Nike Team Nationals as an individual during the cross country season, he was a three-time champion in the 800, 1600 and 4x400 during the indoor season and he ran the fastest 800 in Delaware of the last 27 years this spring. Tyler Tate is a leader and a guy who has developed tremendous confidence in himself over the last two years. He's emerged as a guy who is respected by his competitors and teammates. And he has the biggest smile in the state."

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

Tate joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ryan Lee (2009-10, Archmere Academy), Bobby Kennedy Jr. (2008-09, Caravel Academy), and Isaiah Brisco (2007-08, Cape Henlopen) 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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