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**ISLAND SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE HAWAII 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 Pierce Murphy of Island School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Murphy is the first Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Island 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 Murphy as Hawaii'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, Murphy 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-9 senior won the 1500-meter run with a meet-record time of 4:01.92 and captured the 3000-meter run in a meet-record 8:52.44 at the state championships this spring. The state's 2009-10 Gatorade Hawaii Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Murphy's 1500 and 3000 times ranked nationally as top-75 performances among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. Murphy placed first in the 1500 and 3000 at the 2010 state meet as a junior. He finished as the runner-up in both events at the 2009 state meet as a sophomore.

Murphy has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. He has donated his time as a peer tutor and as a youth soccer instructor.

"His biggest goal was winning both events, and he wanted the meet records," said Island School distance coach Basil Thomas. "It was a terribly windy night for it, and the fact that he did it was amazing. I still can't believe what I saw in the last 200 meters of the 3000. He went out in good style. You just have to shake your head and say, 'Wow.' He's always been a great competitor and a good sport. I've enjoyed coaching him the last three years. Great distance runners are discipline-oriented and self-motivated, and all those things are true about Pierce."

Murphy 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.

Murphy joins recent Gatorade Hawaii Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jacob Edwards (2009-10 & 2008-09, Ka'u) and Javen Correia (2007-08, Maryknoll School) 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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