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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE IDAHO 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 Dallas Burroughs of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Burroughs is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Mountain 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 Burroughs as Idaho'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, Burroughs 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-10 senior sprinter and jumper broke state records in both the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.34 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 21.06 at the Class 5A state meet this spring, leading the Grizzlies to a state championship as a team. A 2010 First Team All-State honoree, Burroughs also claimed fourth place in the long jump, soaring 22 feet, five and a quarter inches. His record-breaking times in the 100 and the 200 ranked among the nation's top 25 performances by prep competitors under all conditions in 2011 at the time of his selection.

Burroughs has maintained a 3.21 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner of his church community, he has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as a youth football coach and camp counselor.

"Dallas Burroughs is an electrifying sprinter and track and field athlete," said Keith Stuffle, head coach of rival Lewiston High. "He's the best athlete I've seen in Idaho since (University of Texas standout and three-time NCAA heptathlon champion) Donovan Kilmartin."

Burroughs has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on a football scholarship at Boise State University 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.

Burroughs joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year A.J. Boully (2009-10, Borah), Mitch Simmonds (2008-09, Cole Valley Christian), and Eric Fitzpatrick (2007-08, Boise) 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.