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**CENTER GROVE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Austin Mudd of Center Grove High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Mudd is the first Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Center Grove 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 Mudd as Indiana'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, Mudd 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 shattered two state records as he won the 800-meter run in 1:49.25 and the 1600-meter run in 4:03.00 this spring at the state meet, leading the Trojans to the state championship as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Mudd also won the 800 at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals in 1:48.09, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection.

Mudd has maintained a weighted 3.30 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs and has participated in church service-mission trips to rural Kentucky.

"Without a doubt, Austin Mudd has the greatest work ethic I have ever seen in an athlete in my 30 years of coaching," said Center Grove head coach Eric Moore. "He's a champion and a great sportsman. You really can't put into words what he means to our program."

Mudd has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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.

Mudd joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Corey Shank (2008-09, Northrop) and Kevin Schipper (2007-08, Bishop Dwenger) 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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