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**OTTUMWA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Kevin Lewis of Ottumwa High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lewis is the first Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Ottumwa 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 Lewis as Iowa'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, Lewis 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 distance runner won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:14.20 and broke a 32-year-old record in the 3200-meter run in 9:05.25 at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Bulldogs to an eighth-place finish as a team. A 2010 First Team All-State honoree, Lewis also claimed first place in the 3200 at the Drake Relays, breaking the tape in 9:05.58. His state-record effort in the 3200 at the state meet ranked among the nation's top 60 performances by a prep competitor in 2011 at the time of his selection.

Lewis has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is the valedictorian of his class. A devoted parishioner of his church community and a member of his school's math team, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his town's sanitation department.

"Kevin Lewis is one of the finest distance runners I have seen," said Jim Hoffman, head coach of rival Burlington High. "I've watched him run a number of times this spring and he has always conducted himself with a lot of class both during and after the race."

Lewis has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on a track and field scholarship at the University of Iowa 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.

Lewis joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kyle Dunn (2009-10, Linn-Mar), Omet Kak (2008-09, North), and Jarred Herring (2007-08, Burlington) 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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