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**MILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Macauley Garton of Mill Valley High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Garton is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mill Valley 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 Garton as Kansas' 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, Garton 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 6-foot-5 senior captured the Class 5A state championship in the javelin this spring with a throw of 217 feet, six inches. Garton also won javelin titles at the Kansas Relays and the Great Southwest Classic, and his season-best mark of 224-3 ranked as the nation's No. 2 throw among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. It is also the third-best throw in state history.

Garton has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented artist, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, the Salvation Army, youth sports clinics and an elementary school reading program.

"Macauley is an exceptional athlete and a tremendous leader for our team," said Mill Valley High head coach Chris Dunback. "His accomplishments are a direct reward of outstanding work ethic, competitive drive and being a student of his craft."

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

Garton joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Johannes Swanepoel (2009-10, Shawnee Mission South), Adonis Saunders (2008-09, Olathe North), and John Talbert (2007-08, Kansas City East Christian Academy) 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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