

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Ginascol (312-729-3622)

**POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Ronald Darby of Potomac High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Darby is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Potomac 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 Darby as Maryland'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, Darby 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-11 junior won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.88 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 21.37 seconds at the Class 3A state meet this spring, leading the Wolverines to second place as a team. A two-time First Team All-Met selection as named by *The Washington Post*, Darby anchored the winning 4x100-meter relay quartet that finished in 42.15 seconds and the 4x200-meter relay squad that broke the tape in 1:27.94. His 200 time of 21.05 seconds at Puerto Rico's Caribbean Scholastic Invitational ranked as the nation's No. 12 performance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. Darby took fourth in the 100 (10.56) and fifth in the 200 (21.28) at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals earlier this month—the 100 clocking was the nation's seventh-fastest among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. He captured the gold medal in the 200-meter dash and the bronze in the 60-meter dash at New Balance Indoor Nationals this past winter.

Also a football standout, Darby has maintained a 3.06 GPA in the classroom. He has donated his time as a peer tutor and youth track and field instructor.

"He had a great year," said Potomac High head coach Fatumatu Abbas. "I personally haven't seen an athlete quite like him ever. He's an exceptional athlete. Football is his first love, but he puts just as much dedication into track. He's a great kid, he's fun to be around and he has a great attitude. His natural talent combined with his work ethic has gotten him where he is."

Darby will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Darby joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Marquis Woodyard (2009-10 & 2008-09, Governor Thomas Johnson) and Jon Hill (2007-08, Walkersville) 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.

###