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**MOUNDS PARK ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Mason Ferlic of Mounds Park Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ferlic is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mounds Park Academy.

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 Ferlic as Minnesota'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, Ferlic 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 3 senior distance runner won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:16.23 and the 3200-meter run in 9:17.68 at the Class A state meet this spring, leading the Panthers to an eighth-place finish as a team. A three-time individual state champion in his career, Ferlic also won both the 1600 (4:24.44) and the 3200 (9:31.54) at the Class A sectional final.

Ferlic has maintained a 3.76 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Science Club and the Speech Team, he has donated his time as a set-builder for his school's theater department and has volunteered locally on behalf of American Preclinical Services as an animal research laboratory assistant.

"Mason Ferlic has worked so hard for everything he has accomplished," said Mounds Park Academy head coach Bev Docherty. "He's a great kid and he's always pushing himself to improve and become a better runner."

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

Ferlic joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Macauley Spandl (2009-10, Moorhead), Casey Dehn (2008-09, Owatonna), and Zach Mellon (2007-08, Buffalo) 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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