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**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Scotty Koehler-Owens of Billings Senior High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Koehler-Owens is the third Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Koehler-Owens as Montana'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, Koehler-Owens 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 jumper and sprinter won the long jump, soaring 22 feet and one-quarter inches, and captured the high jump title, clearing 6-8 at the Class AA state meet this spring, leading the Broncs to a state championship as a team. The 2009-10 Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Koehler-Owens also took second in the triple jump with a leap of 46-0 and took third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.49 seconds. He led all competitors at the state meet with 34 individual points.

Koehler-Owens has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a peer mentor and as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Scotty Koehler-Owens is a perfect example of what you can accomplish when you work hard and put in the effort," said Billings Senior High head coach Dennis Johnson. "He has made himself into a top athlete and a true leader because of his strong work ethic."

Koehler-Owens has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on a track and field scholarship at Colorado State University 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.

Koehler-Owens joins recent Gatorade Montana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Chris Wilson (2008-09, C.M. Russell) and Josh Pelczar (2007-08, Billings West) 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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