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**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Nick Hartle of Centennial High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hartle is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Hartle as Nevada'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, Hartle 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-1 junior won two individual state championships at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Bulldogs to second place as a team. The state's 2010-11 Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Hartle won the 800-meter run with a state-record time of 1:49.91 and captured the 1600-meter run in a state-record 4:10.23, each of which ranked among the nation's top-25 performances by prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. Hartle placed fourth in the 400-meter dash in 49.27 seconds in addition to running the third leg for the 4x400-meter relay quartet that finished fourth in 3:21.67. He anchored the winning 4x800-meter relay squad at the 2010 Class 4A state meet as a sophomore.

Hartle has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered as a peer tutor in his school.

"Nick has really improved dramatically this spring and grabbed a lot of national attention after the Nevada state meet when he ran that amazing 800/1,600 double," said Steve Underwood, Senior Editor for ESPN RISE/DyeStat.com. "His times are outstanding for a junior. It will be exciting to see what he does during his remaining time at Centennial and beyond."

Hartle 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.

Hartle joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Garic Wharton (2009-10 & 2008-09, Valley) and Joseph Abbott (2007-08, Galena) 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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