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**MERRIMACK VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE
NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 D'Mahl McFadden of Merrimack Valley High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. McFadden is the fifth Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Merrimack 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 McFadden as New Hampshire'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, McFadden 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 senior swept the 110-meter high hurdles and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles at the Division II Meet, the statewide Meet of Champions and the New England Interscholastic Outdoor Track & Field Championships this spring. McFadden set a pair of state records at the Meet of Champions, winning the 110 hurdles in 14.00 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 25 time among prep competitors in 2011, and the 300 hurdles in 37.71, the No. 57 time among prep competitors nationwide this spring at the time of his selection.

McFadden has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with a day-care agency and as a youth track coach.

"D'Mahl McFadden is unbelievable," said Jack Gati, head coach of rival Salem High. "He broke the state record in both hurdles. 14.0 seconds in the 110 hurdles is unreal. Those were both long-standing records, too. Amazing."

McFadden has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of New Hampshire beginning 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.

McFadden joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Dominic Filiano (2009-10, Lebanon), Mike Marshall (2008-09, Salem), and Matt Paulson (2007-08, Central) 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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