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**HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEW MEXICO BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 23, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Eric Fenton of Hope Christian School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Fenton is the first Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hope Christian 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 Fenton as New Mexico'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, Fenton 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-9 senior distance runner won three individual state championships this spring and led the Huskies to the Class 3A state title as a team. Fenton won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:56.33, the 1600-meter run in 4:20.60 and captured the 3200-meter run in 9:54.75. The 2011 Marilyn Sepulveda Invitational 3200 champion, he is a three-time individual state champion in the 1600 and holds school records in the 800, the 1600 and the 3200.

Fenton has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. An elected member of his school's student council, he has volunteered locally as a summer youth sports coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives with his church youth group.

"I don't see anyone out there who works harder to succeed than Eric Fenton," said Cameron Stuber, head coach of rival Santa Fe Indian High. "He obviously worked harder than any runner over the winter and he absolutely dominated in track. As a fan of the sport, I always enjoy watching Eric Fenton run."

Fenton has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on a track and field scholarship at New Mexico 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.

Fenton joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Warrick Campbell (2009-10, Highland) and Curtis Beach (2008-09 & 2007-08, Albuquerque Academy) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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