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**FARGO SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Brock Larson of Fargo South High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Larson is the second Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Fargo South 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 Larson as North Dakota'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, Larson 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 won the javelin and the pole vault at the Class A state meet this spring, leading the Bruins to fifth place as a team. A two-time First Team All-State selection, Larson set a meet record in the pole vault at the state championships, clearing 15 feet, six inches and captured first place in the javelin with a throw of 176-3. He also took fourth place in the long jump, soaring 21-3 and earned ninth place in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 17.75 seconds. Larson's winning clearance of 16 feet in the pole vault at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays ranked among the nation's top 50 performances by a prep competitor in 2011 at the time of his selection.

Larson has maintained a 3.13 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner of his church community, he has volunteered locally in association with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Brock Larson is quite an intelligent young man with an exceptional work ethic," said Leon Kary, head coach of rival Mandan High. "He's a competitor yet he's willing to go the extra mile to help his teammates or even his competition on the track and in the field."

Larson has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on a track and field scholarship at North Dakota 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.

Larson joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brandon Barnes (2009-10, Bismarck), Ryan Todhunter (2008-09, Red River), and Jason Duchsherer (2007-08, Bismarck) 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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