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**SAM BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE OREGON 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 Ryan Crouser of Sam Barlow High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Crouser is the first Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Sam Barlow 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 Crouser as Oregon'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, Crouser 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-7 senior won the shot put and the discus at the Class 6A state championship meet this spring, leading the Bruins to a third-place finish as a team. Despite a serious leg injury, Crouser—the state record-holder in both events—put the shot 65 feet, 7.5 inches and launched the discus 179-1. His season-best discus throw of 213-7 ranked as nation's No. 1 mark among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. Crouser's season-best shot put of 72-7.5 inches ranked as the nation's No. 2 throw.

Crouser has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A math tutor in his school, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs and a river habitat-restoration project.

"Ryan is a true leader and the heart and soul of our team," said Sam Barlow High head coach David Kilian. "One of the most impressive things about him is how he handled himself during the past two seasons through injury. He never faltered in his dedication to the team. At the state meet, only able to complete standing throws, he still came within six inches of breaking his own state meet record—an incredible feat."

Crouser has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Texas 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.

Crouser joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sam Crouser (2009-10, Gresham), Elijah Greer (2008-09, Lake Oswego), and Nathan Mathabane (2007-08, Lincoln) 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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