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**CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Jarell Forbes of Classical High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Forbes is the fourth Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Classical 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 Forbes as Rhode Island'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, Forbes 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 senior won the 110-meter high hurdles and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles at the State Meet this spring, leading the Purple to fourth place as a team. Forbes won the 110 hurdles in 14.83 seconds and the 300 hurdles in 39.52. He also placed fifth in the high jump with a clearance of 6 feet, 2 inches. A 12-time class champion, Forbes shattered his own state record in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles at this month's New Balance Nationals with a time of 54.05 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 28 time among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection.

Forbes has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and mentor.

"Not only is Jarell a good kid, he's also a very hard worker," said Nick Palazzo, head coach of rival Central Falls High. "He's always at the track, always doing something. The biggest thing about him is his attitude, his mindset—he's a really confident kid. He doesn't shy away from adversity."

Forbes will attend Rhode Island College where he will compete in track and field 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.

Forbes joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kadeem Kushimo (2009-10, La Salle Academy) and Andrew Springer (2008-09 & 2007-08, Westerly) 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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