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**HANAHAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE
SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Chris Brown of Hanahan High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hanahan 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 Brown as South Carolina'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, Brown 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-2 junior captured the Class AA state championship in the triple jump this spring with a leap of 51 feet, 2.5 inches, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 distance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. Brown also won the long jump with a mark of 23-9, which ranked as the nation's No. 25 distance among prep competitors nationwide this spring entering this week's USA Track & Field Junior Outdoor Championships. He also ran the second spring leg for Hanahan's state title-winning 4x100-meter relay quartet. Brown placed second in the triple jump at the New Balance Nationals with a leap of 50-6.

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

"Chris has a lot of ability," said David Pratt, Hanahan High head coach. "I think the biggest difference is he's gotten a lot stronger and a lot faster. After getting hurt at last year's state meet, he was really determined to come back this year and make up for it. I think that motivated him all year."

Brown will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brandon Sanders (2009-10 & 2008-09, Dreher) and Marcus Rowland (2007-08, Dorman) 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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