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**RAPID CITY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Tony Smoragiewicz of Rapid City Central High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Smoragiewicz is the second Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rapid City Central 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 Smoragiewicz as South 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, Smoragiewicz 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-8 junior distance runner won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:17.86 and the 3200-meter run in 9:35.07 at the Class AA state meet this spring, leading the Cobblers to a third-place finish as a team. The 2010-11 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Smoragiewicz also took third in the 800-meter run in 1:55.63 and produced the fastest 1600 and 3200 times of all of South Dakota's competitive classifications. Smoragiewicz also finished seventh in the 3200 with a personal best time of 8:57.65 at the Arcadia Invitational in California, which ranked among the nation's top 20 performances by a prep competitor in 2011 at the time of his selection.

Smoragiewicz has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is ranked first in his class of 486 students. An accomplished alto saxophonist in his school's concert band and jazz band, he is a devoted parishioner of his church community and has volunteered locally as a peer leader and elementary school motivational speaker.

"Smoragiewicz is in a class by himself," said Washington High head coach Everett Gebhardt. "There wasn't anyone who could touch him at any point this year. He was pretty incredible."

Smoragiewicz 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.

Smoragiewicz joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Trevor Gebhart (2009-10, Washington), Alex Muntefering (2008-09, Parkston), and Matt Tetzlaff (2007-08, T.F. Riggs) 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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