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**WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Isaiah Simmons of Woodbridge High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Simmons is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Woodbridge 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 Simmons as Virginia'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, Simmons 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-9 senior won the shot put and the discus at the Group AAA state meet this spring, leading the Vikings to eighth place as a team. Simmons set a state record in the shot with a throw of 66 feet, 0.5 inches, which ranked as the nation's No. 6 distance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection. Simmons also broke a state-meet record in the discus (194-7). The runner-up in the discus at this month's New Balance Nationals, he set the state record in the discus at the Northwest Regional Meet with a throw of 196-8, which ranked as the nation's No. 12 mark among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of his selection.

Simmons has maintained a 3.63 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a mentor to at-risk elementary school students.

"I have watched Isaiah's progression from a regionally ranked athlete to a nationally ranked athlete," said Woodbridge High coach Andy McCarthy. "He is humble, determined and ambitious. He is a terrific athlete."

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

Simmons joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Darrell Wesh (2009-10, Landstown), Tyler Stutzman (2008-09, Western Albemarle), and Peter Dorrell (2007-08, Blacksburg) 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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