

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Tyler Rohde of Chugiak High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Rohde is the first Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Chugiak 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 Rohde as Alaska'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, Rohde 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-11 junior hurdler won the 110-meter hurdles with a state-record time of 14.61 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles in 39.34 at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Mustangs to third place as a team. Named Class 4A Most Outstanding Competitor, Rohde ran the lead leg for the 4x400-meter relay squad that broke the tape in 3:28.60 and anchored the second-place 4x200-meter relay quartet that finished in 1:31.42. His 110-meter hurdles time at the state meet ranked No. 5 among Northwest prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection.

Rohde has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom and serves as president of his school's Junior Achievement Program chapter. In addition to donating his time locally as a youth football and baseball instructor, he has volunteered on behalf of the Boys Scouts of America, Special Olympics and the Kids Don't Float water safety initiative.

"Tyler Rohde is one of the most determined athletes I know," said Chugiak Head Coach Jon Schroeder. "His dedication and focus, along with his work ethic, have propelled him to the top of the state in both hurdles events."

Rohde 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 ESPNHS 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.

Rohde joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Elliott Bauer (2010-11, South Anchorage High School), Silas Talbot (2009-10, Service), Trevor Dunbar (2008-09, Kodiak), and Jordan Clarke (2007-08, Bartlett) 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.

###