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**LA COSTA CANYON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE CALIFORNIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Darren Fahy of La Costa Canyon High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Fahy is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from La Costa Canyon 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 Fahy as California'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, Fahy 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 senior distance runner won the 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:08.78 and the 3,200-meter run in 9:03.29 at the California Interscholastic Federation this spring, leading the Mavericks to third place as a team. The state's 2011-12 Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Fahy clocked an 8:54.51 in the 3,200 at the Arcadia Invitational and a 4:08.15 in the 1,600 at the ASICS Mt. Carmel Invitational, which ranked as the nation's No. 6 and No. 12 performances, respectively, among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection. He also recorded the country's fastest 3,000-meter steeplechase time of 9:03.15 at the UCSD Triton Invitational, clocking the No. 10 time in prep history.

Also a cross country standout, Fahy has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade Award's broad criteria. A devoted member of his church community and a summer youth track coach, he has volunteered locally making skateboards for underprivileged children.

"He was just fantastic," said La Costa Canyon distance coach Bill Vice. "It was a dream season for him. He was disappointed in his performance last year, which we thought was a great season. We finished third in the meet as a team, due largely to Darren's two wins. That's the highest place we've had. We're sorry to see him go. I've coached him for four years, and he's one of the most humble kids you'll ever meet. He's a great role model for the other kids."

Fahy has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Georgetown University 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.

Fahy joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Remontay McClain (2010-11, Covina High School), Sean Krinik (2009-10, Valencia), Mac Fleet (2008-09, University City), and German Fernandez (2007-08, Riverbank) 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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