

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**FORT COLLINS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE COLORADO 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 Raymond Bozmans of Fort Collins High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Colorado Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bozmans is the first Gatorade Colorado Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Fort Collins 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 Bozmans as Colorado'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, Bozmans 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, 155-pound senior sprinter won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.51 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 21.42 and the 400-meter dash in 47.56 at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Lambkins to the state championship as a team. The All-Colorado Boys Track Athlete of the Year as named by *The Denver Post*, Bozmans clocked a state-record 10.27 in the 100 at the Dakota Ridge Invitational and a 20.84 in the 200 at the Liberty Bell Invitational, each of which ranked among the nation's top-10 performances among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection.

Also a football standout and accomplished saxophonist, Bozmans has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community and a member of his school's band, he has volunteered as a youth athletic instructor on behalf of his community track club.

"Ray is an amazing young man," said Fort Collins Head Coach Conrad Crist. "He is very team-oriented and does whatever is asked of him if it benefits the team. His athletic performances speak for themselves, but I am more impressed with how he handles himself as a person."

Bozmans has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Texas Christian 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.

Bozmans joins recent Gatorade Colorado Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Connor Winter (2010-11, Arapahoe High School), Trevor Brown (2009-10, Wasson), and Mason Finley (2007-08 & 2008-09, Buena Vista) 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.

###