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**CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Jake Scinto of Cheshire High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Scinto is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cheshire 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 Scinto as Connecticut'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, Scinto 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, 175-pound senior field athlete won three individual titles this spring and led the Rams to third place at the State Open Championships. The Field Athlete of the Year as named by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association, Scinto won the long jump with a leap of 22 feet, 11 inches as well as the triple jump, launching himself 45 feet, 4.25 inches. He also captured the high jump, clearing six feet, four inches. Scinto went on to take first place in the high jump (6-11) and the long jump (22-9) at the New England Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Scinto's high jump effort at the New England championships ranked as the nation's No. 13 performance among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection.

Also a football standout, Scinto has maintained a 3.65 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Cheshire's annual Vietnam Veterans Day services.

"He's a competitor, to say the least," said Ed McCarthy, head coach at rival West Haven High. "Whatever he's had to do, he's done it. He's a tremendous student. He's the whole package. I couldn't be more thankful to have seen him compete. Coaching against him certainly wasn't that much fun, but he's been a lot of fun to watch."

Scinto will attend Princeton University this fall, where he will continue his track and field career.

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.

Scinto joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year John Wlasuk (2010-11, Newtown High School), Chris FitzSimons (2009-10, Hamden), Cas Loxsom (2008-09, Wilbur Cross), and Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury) 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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