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**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 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 Mike Crozier of Gonzaga College High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Crozier is the third Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Gonzaga College 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 Crozier as District of Columbia'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, Crozier 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-10, 140-pound senior distance runner won individual Washington Catholic Athletic Conference titles in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:18.55 and the 3200-meter run in 9:28.71, and earned second place in the 800-meter run in 1:59.64 this spring, leading the Eagles to second-place in the WCAC championships. The 2011-12 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Crozier also broke the tape in the 800 (1:59.73) and the 1600 (4:18.84) at the Draper Invitation in early May. He competed at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships earning 10th place in the 3000-meter run (8:34.65) and 14th place in the 2-mile run (9:12.21), both of which ranked among the top 50 times by prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection.

Crozier has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's student council, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Arlington Food Assistance Center and participated in a Christian retreat program in association with this church youth group.

"Mike Crozier is a fine competitor and a relentless distance runner," said Gonzaga College High Head Coach Alvin Maddox. "He is a true leader and a great representative for our school and the sport of track and field."

Crozier has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field 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.

Crozier joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Collin Leibold (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Imani Kelly (2009-10, Theodore Roosevelt), and Seck Barry (2007-08 & 2008-09, St. Albans School) 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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