

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**STEVENS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Romario Bailey of Stevens High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bailey is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Stevens 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 Bailey as New Hampshire'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, Bailey 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-9, 155-pound junior won four individual state championships this spring and led the Cardinals to a second-place finish as a team at the Division III state meet. Bailey won the 100-meter dash in 11.29 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 23.02, the 110-meter hurdles in 15.19 and the 300-meter hurdles in 39.82. He went on to win the 300 hurdles (39.80) at the state Meet of Champions, then placed third in the 200 (22.23) and fourth in the 300 hurdles (39.83) at the New England Outdoor Championships.

Bailey has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at an area food bank and at middle school track meets, and he was selected to the National Technical Honor Society based on his work in Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering technical course.

"Romario Bailey was one of the dominant track athletes in New Hampshire this spring," said Dyrace Maxfield, head coach of rival Bow High. "Despite being from a smaller division, I was impressed how Romario continued to race up to his high standards at every competition rather than just running fast enough to win."

Bailey 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.

Bailey joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year D'Mahl McFadden (2010-11, Merrimack Valley High School), Dominic Filiano (2009-10, Lebanon), Mike Marshall (2008-09, Salem), and Matt Paulson (2007-08, Central) 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.

###