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**SUE CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 Luis Martinez of Sue Cleveland High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Martinez is the first Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Sue Cleveland 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 Martinez as New Mexico'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, Martinez 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, 130-pound junior distance runner won an individual state title in the 3200-meter run with a time of 9:41.66 this spring, leading the Storm to the Class 5A state title as a team. The 2011-12 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Martinez also won the 1600-meter run in 4:17.50 and the 3200 in 9:13.16 at the Richard Harper Invitational.

Martinez has maintained a 4.06 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Watermelon Mountain Ranch animal shelter and as a youth track and field coach.

"Luis Martinez is a great ambassador for the sport of track and field and he's obviously the best distance runner in the state," said Sal Gonzalez, head coach at Rio Rancho High. "He was basically untouchable every time he stepped onto the track this year."

Martinez 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.

Martinez joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Eric Fenton (2010-11, Hope Christian School), Warrick Campbell (2009-10, Highland), and Curtis Beach (2007-08 & 2008-09, Albuquerque Academy) 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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