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**SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Billy Stanley of South Park High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Stanley is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from South Park 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 Stanley as Pennsylvania'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, Stanley 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-11 senior captured the Class AAA state championship in the javelin this spring with a throw of 246 feet, nine inches, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 distance among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection, and as the second-best mark in U.S. prep history. Stanley also set a meet record while winning the javelin at the Penn Relays.

Stanley has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs and has assisted with charity dinners at his church.

"In my 19 years of coaching, I've never had an athlete who was more coachable than Billy Stanley," said South Park coach Jeff Hufnagel. "He attained every goal he ever set forth for himself, and even more impressively, he did it in a humble way."

Stanley has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Ohio State 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.

Stanley joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Eric Futch (2010-11, Penn Wood High School), Tom Mallon (2009-10, Central Bucks South), and Justin Shirk (2007-08 & 2008-09, Central Dauphin) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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