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**DREHER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA 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 Brandon Sanders of Dreher High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Sanders is the second Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Dreher 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 Sanders as South Carolina'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, Sanders 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 2008-09 and 2009-10 Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 6-foot, 175-pound senior won two individual state championships and two relays this spring, reclaiming the award he'd won twice previously and leading the Blue Devils to the Class 3A state championship. Sanders won the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.40 seconds, which ranked No. 47 nationally among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection. He concluded his prep track career with 11 state titles.

Sanders has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at Richland Memorial Hospital, on behalf of Meals on Wheels and as part of an elementary school literacy-outreach program.

"Brandon Sanders has been the face of Dreher track for the last four years," said John Javis, head coach of Eau Claire High. "He was a four-event gold medalist at our state meet and his team wouldn't have won the state title without him."

Sanders has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of South Carolina beginning 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.

Sanders joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Chris Brown (2010-11, Hanahan High School), Brandon Sanders (2008-09 & 2009-10, Dreher), and Marcus Rowland (2007-08, Dorman) 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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