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**CUSTER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Tyler Schultz of Custer High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schultz is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Custer 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 Schultz as South Dakota'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, Schultz 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, 220-pound senior field athlete won individual state titles in the shot put with a mark of 67 feet, one inch and the discus with a throw of 183 feet, three inches this spring, leading the Wildcats to a second-place finish at the Class A state meet. A three-time First Team All-State honoree, Schultz set a state record at the Class A Region 8 meet, putting the shot 70 feet, six inches which ranked as the nation's No. 1 throw among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection.

Schultz has maintained a 4.08 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of an area nursing home and in association with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Tyler Schultz is an outstanding athlete," said Tom McGough, head coach at Miller Area High. "The one thing that truly stands out is his positive and sporting personal demeanor. He has a great rapport and respect for those he competes against. He is a great ambassador for the sport of track and field in South Dakota."

Schultz has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at Colorado 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.

Schultz joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tony Smoragiewicz (2010-11, Rapid City Central High School), Trevor Gebhart (2009-10, Washington), Alex Muntefering (2008-09, Parkston), and Matt Tetzlaff (2007-08, T.F. Riggs) 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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