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**OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Brock Baker of Oakland High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Baker is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Oakland 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 Baker as Tennessee'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, Baker 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 6-foot, 148-pound junior won the 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:15.10 and the 3,200-meter run in 9:18.20 at the Class 3A state meet this spring and led the Patriots to a ninth-place finish as a team. A 2012 New Balance Indoor All-American selection, Baker placed fifth in the 2-mile at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships with a time of 9:00.22, which ranked No. 6 in the nation among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection. He also ranked in the Top 25 nationally with his season-best performances in the mile, 3,000 and 3,200.

Baker has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is ranked No. 1 in his class. A soloist in the Oakland Chamber Choir, he helped found the non-profit Sustaining A Village Everyday, which raised \$29,000 to provide food and clean water to a village in Haiti. He has volunteered locally with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Brock Baker is so determined and focused that he won't allow boundaries to get in his way to stop him from accomplishing greatness," said Phil Young, head coach at rival Siegel High. "He always works to overtake his limitations. He is very talented, however his work ethic and discipline are nothing short of extraordinary for a 17-year-old."

Baker 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.

Baker joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tyler Anderson (2010-11, Hillsboro High School), Kevin Lazas (2009-10, Brentwood), Jordan Chaney (2008-09, Maryville), and Sean Keveren (2007-08, Brentwood) 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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