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**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Lacey Dent of St. Paul's Episcopal School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Alabama Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Dent is the third Gatorade Alabama Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. Paul's Episcopal 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 Dent as Alabama's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Dent joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Iowa) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-7 sophomore won five individual state championships this spring and led the Saints to their fifth consecutive Class 5A state championship as a team. Dent won the 100-meter high hurdles in a Class 5A record 14.23 seconds, and captured the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 45.18. She finished first in the long jump, with a leap of 19 feet, and the triple jump, with a clearance of 38 feet, 4.25 inches, and topped the field in the heptathlon with 4,447 points.

Dent has maintained a weighted 4.20 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor in her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and youth track programs.

"Lacey is incredibly talented and she possesses a tremendous work ethic," said St. Paul's head coach Jim Tate. "She's contributed significantly to our team's state championships since she was in seventh grade."

Dent will begin her junior 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 ESPN RISE 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.

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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