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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**HIGHLANDS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE COLORADO GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 2010) — In its 25<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Eleanor Fulton of Highlands Ranch High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Colorado Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Fulton is the first Gatorade Colorado Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Highlands Ranch 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 Fulton as Colorado'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, Fulton 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 junior middle-distance and distance runner won the 1,600-meter run with a time of 5:02.76 and the 3,200 in 10:43.44 at the Class 5A state meet this spring, leading the Falcons to fifth place as a team. A returning Class 5A First Team All-State selection as named by The Denver Post, Fulton also captured second place in the 800-meter run, breaking the tape in 2:10.04, which ranked as the nation's No. 31 clocking among prep competitors at the time of her selection. Her 1,600 time of 4:52.61 at the Runners Roost Invitational and her 3,200 finish of 10:42.20 at the Liberty Bell Invitational ranked No. 35 and No. 62 in the country. Fulton placed third in the mile at the Nike Indoor Nationals in March.

Fulton has maintained a 4.18 weighted GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered as a youth track instructor and in association with fundraising efforts to benefit a local hospital.

"She's by far the hardest-working athlete we've had in our 30 years of coaching," said Highlands Ranch head coach John Padgen. "She has a tremendous attitude and work ethic. She's helped turn around the program. We only had 30 athletes come out for the team a few years ago, and we had 110 this year. We've finished in the top five in the state the last two years. She's really changed the work ethic and attitude of our program. She's very talented, but her strength is in her work ethic."

Fulton will begin her 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 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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