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**CARLINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Kelsey Card of Carlinville High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Card is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Carlinville 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 Card as Illinois'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, Card 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-10 junior swept the throwing events at the Class 1A state meet for the third consecutive season this spring. Card won the discus with a state-record throw of 167 feet, 4 inches, the third-best mark in the country among prep competitors at the time of her selection, and captured the shot put with an effort of 48 feet, 9.75 inches, a Class 1A record and the No. 6 throw in the nation.

Card has maintained an unweighted 3.61 GPA in the classroom. A Sunday School teacher at her church, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs.

"Her natural talent is surpassed only by her hard work, dedication and desire to improve," said Carlinville High head coach Shelly Wills. "She's a high achiever in both academics and athletics."

Card 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.

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