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**SACRED HEART ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Emma Brink of Sacred Heart Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Brink is the second Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Sacred Heart Academy.

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 Brink as Kentucky'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, Brink 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.).

A three-time Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year and also the 2008-09 Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-8 junior set a pair of state records at this spring's Class 3A state championship meet, winning the 800-meter run with a time of 2:13.26 and the 1,600 in 4:53.66, leading the Valkyries to sixth place as a team. A nine-time state champion, Brink set the state record in the mile (4:52.51) as a junior, the nation's No. 16 clocking among prep competitors at the time of her selection.

Brink has maintained an unweighted 3.91 GPA in the classroom. The winner of Sacred Heart Academy's Junior 110 Percent Award as voted by the school's teachers, she has volunteered locally as a tutor for at-risk children and as an elementary school track coach.

"What's incredible is she just wins every time she races in Kentucky," said Mike Horan, head coach of rival Eastern High. "I've never seen her lose a race. It's hard to be good all the time. It's terribly difficult to be consistently at a high level. Emma Brink doesn't fail at that; she brings it every time."

Brink 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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