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**TRITON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Deanna Latham of Triton Regional High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Latham is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Triton Regional 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 Latham as Massachusetts'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, Latham 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 senior hurdler and field athlete won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.60 seconds and the long jump with leap of 19 feet, 3 inches at the All-State meet this spring, leading Triton to seventh place as a team. A two-time returning Outdoor Track & Field All-Scholastic selection as named by *The Boston Globe*, Latham also captured first place in the 100-meter hurdles and the long jump at the Eastern Massachusetts Division 3 meet. The New England Indoor Track & Field Championships 55-meter hurdles and long jump champion, she won the long jump competition at the outdoor All-State meet for the third consecutive season in 2010.

Also an accomplished pianist and choir singer, Latham has maintained a 4.32 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and her school's student council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, the Salvation Army, Rotary International and Anna Jacques Hospital. Latham has also donated her time to an animal shelter, a senior center and as a youth track and soccer instructor in her area.

"As an opposing coach, I'm glad she's graduating," said Steve Derro, head coach of rival Pentucket High. "She's been a dominant force since she entered the season as a freshman. This is my 16th year, and we haven't had an athlete around here in the ballpark with her. She's just phenomenal. Everything she does is just amazing. She's a good kid and a hard-worker."

Latham has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Wisconsin 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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