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**KENNEBUNK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 Abbey Leonardi of Kennebunk High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Maine Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Leonardi is the second Gatorade Maine Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Kennebunk 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 Leonardi as Maine'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, Leonardi 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Leonardi won the 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:51.57 and the 3,200 in 10:42.32 at the Class A state meet this spring, leading the Rams to 11th place as a team. Also a two-time Gatorade Maine Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-1 sophomore middle-distance and distance runner's 1,600-meter finish at the Class A state meet ranked as the nation's No. 38 clocking among prep competitors at the time of her selection. Leonardi also produced a top-20 national time in the 3,200, winning at the New England Outdoor Track & Field Championships in 10:26.48.

Leonardi has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has donated her time by fundraising to benefit displaced civilians in Sudan's western region of Darfur.

"It's amazing what she's done, but because of all the hard work she puts in and her determination as a runner, it's not surprising," said Kennebunk head coach Geoffrey Drew. "She's so determined to run her fastest. She's only 15 years old, and she still has a lot to learn, which is exciting. I think she can do even better. Most of her records have come in races where she's running by herself. Other than New Englands, until she broke away, she's doing this virtually on her own. She definitely has natural ability, but she's working really hard."

Leonardi 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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