

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**ROCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Megan Goethals of Rochester High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Goethals is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rochester 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 Goethals as Michigan'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, Goethals 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, Goethals set records in sweeping the 1,600-meter run and the 3,200 at the Division I state meet this spring, leading the Falcons to the team championship. The 5-foot-8 senior set a state record to win the 3,200 with a time of 10:22.75, and notched a Div. I record while capturing the 1,600 in 4:47.37. The reigning 2009-10 Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Goethals also ran a leg on the 4x800 meter relay team that set another state record of 9:05.47. Her season-best time of 10:00.15 in the 3,200 is the No. 1 clocking in the nation this season to date.

Goethals has maintained an unweighted 3.45 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered on behalf of Rochester's Older Persons' Commission Meals on Wheels program as well as US Youth Soccer TOPSoccer, a community-based training and team-placement program for young athletes with disabilities.

"Megan's acceleration and drive are second to none," said Rochester head coach Larry Adams. "She's accomplished everything she can do at this level. I'm excited to see what she can do at the next one."

Goethals has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Washington 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.

###