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**PASS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Cory McGee of Pass Christian High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. McGee is the first Gatorade Mississippi Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pass Christian 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 McGee as Mississippi'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, McGee 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 two-time returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, McGee swept the 800-meter run, the 1,600 and the 3,200 at the Class 3A state meet for the fifth consecutive year this spring. The 5-foot-7 senior ran a state-record 2:10.60 to win the 800 and scorched her way another state record of 4:50.47 to capture the 1,600. She won the 3,200 in 10:53.83. McGee added a fourth-place finish in the mile at this month's New Balance Nationals with a time of 4:50.54 and her season-best clocking of 4:49.76 in the event ranked 12th in the country among prep competitors at the time of her selection. Also a three-time Gatorade Mississippi Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, she finished her career with 17 individual track and field titles.

McGee has maintained an unweighted 3.43 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as an assistant in a special needs class.

"She deserves every award and honor she's received, because she's earned them," said Pass Christian head coach Tim Ladner. "She's just an extremely hard-working and talented athlete."

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