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**Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)**

**FARGO SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Laura Roesler of Fargo South High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Roesler is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Fargo South 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 Roesler as North Dakota'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, Roesler 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-6 senior distance runner swept the 200- and the 400-meter dash as well as the 800-meter run at the Class A state meet this spring, leading the Bruins to second place as a team. The three-time Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year concluded her prep career with a record 20 individual state titles and set a new state record in the 400 at the 2010 state meet, breaking the tape in 53.25. A two-time *Associated Press* North Dakota Female Athlete of the Year and a four-time Team MVP, her season-best time of 2:05.51 in the 800 at the Dakota Relays ranked as the nation's No. 2 time among prep competitors at the time of her selection.

Roesler has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her church community, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Laura Roesler is just in a league of her own," said West Fargo High head coach Darin McKinnon. "She is so talented and she has been so impressive here for so many years. I just don't think we'll ever see anyone quite as talented."

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