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**SCOTTSBLUFF HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Aubree Worden of Scottsbluff High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Worden is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Scottsbluff 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 Worden as Nebraska'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, Worden 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 junior distance runner won the 1600-meter and the 3200-meter run at the Class B state meet this spring, leading the Bearcats to eighth place as a team. Also the 2009-10 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Worden won All-Class gold in both events, capturing the 1600 with a time of 5:07.72 and the 3200 in 11:09.64. Worden was the only Nebraska runner to break five minutes in the 1600 (4:59.10) this season, a feat she accomplished at April's Arcadia Invitational in California.

Worden has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Letterman's Club and Spanish Club, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Aubree Worden is so dedicated and committed to making herself better all the time," said Scottsbluff High head coach Tanya Vaughn. "She works harder than anyone I have ever been around."

Worden will begin her senior 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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