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**NEPTUNE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Ajeé Wilson of Neptune High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wilson is the second Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Neptune 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 Wilson as New Jersey'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, Wilson 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-7 sophomore middle-distance and distance runner won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:04.94 at the Meet of Champions this spring. The All-Shore Conference Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Wilson won the 800 in 2:07.28 and the 1,600 in 4:43.92 at the Group III state meet for the second consecutive season, in addition to placing second in the 400-meter dash, to lead the Scarlet Fliers to sixth place as a team. Her 800 finish at the Meet of Champions and 1,600 clocking at the Group III state meet both ranked No. 1 in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection. Wilson also clocked the country's No. 34 time of 54.51 in the 400-meter dash at the Group III state meet.

Wilson has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom and has served on her school's character committee. In addition to donating her time locally to a soup kitchen and as a member of her church's youth group, she has volunteered on behalf of The Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the March of Dimes Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

"She runs as hard as she has to in order to win," said Neptune head coach Dawn Bowles-Fitch. "A lot of people doubted her because she hadn't run under 4:50, but she hadn't been pushed. I told her, 'When you get to the state meet, you're going to be ready to run,' but I wasn't expecting a 4:43. It was surprising. As we started getting ready for state, and I saw how hard she was training, I knew she'd be fast—I just didn't know she'd be that fast."

Wilson 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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