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**ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Hannah Rowe of St. Johnsbury Academy as its 2009-10 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Rowe is the first Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. Johnsbury Academy.

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 Rowe as Vermont'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, Rowe 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 2008-09 Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year and a two-time Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-3 senior won all three events she entered at this spring's Division I state championship meet, overcoming a sprained ankle to lead the Hilltoppers to third place as a team. A 10-time state champion, Rowe won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:17.41, the 1,500 meters in 4:47.20 and the 3,000 in 10:23.29. Rowe broke 13 school records in her four years at St. Johnsbury Academy.

Rowe has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. A member of the St. Johnsbury Academy Jazz Band as a pianist and saxophonist as well as the school singing group, the Hilltones, she has volunteered locally as a lifeguard and with Habitat for Humanity.

"Hannah Rowe is not only the most outstanding track competitor in Vermont, but she also is a terrific individual and a great student and a great person," said Paul Wheeler, head coach of rival Lyndon Institute. "She can run everything from the 4x100 relay to the 3,000 meters and do well. Her versatility makes her outstanding."

Rowe will attend Dartmouth College where she will compete in track and field beginning 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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