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Contact: Julie Mason (412-561-1014)

**THE NORTHWEST SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Maddie Meyers of The Northwest School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Washington Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Meyers is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from The Northwest 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 Meyers as Washington'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, Meyers 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-8 sophomore used a powerful closing kick to win the Jim Ryun Dream Mile in New York on June 12 with a time of 4:41.93, the nation's No. 1 clocking among prep competitors at the time of her selection and the 17th-fastest time ever by a high school female. At the Class 1A state meet, Meyers swept the 800-meter run, the 1,600 and the 3,200, leading the Haus to sixth place as a team. The state record-holder in the outdoor mile, the indoor mile and the 2,000-meter steeplechase, Meyers also ranked among the nation's top 25 prep competitors in the 800 (2:09.78, No. 23), the 3,200 (10:26.40, No. 18) and the 2,000 steeplechase (6:57.91, No. 12) despite competing in the latter event just twice in her life.

Meyers has maintained an unweighted 3.79 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished pianist and trumpet player, she has volunteered locally as part of city-beautification projects and as a youth track coach as well as at a homeless shelter and food bank.

"To watch Maddie Meyers run is a lot of fun because she makes it look so effortless," said Garron Smith, head coach of rival Cedar Christian School. "It's fun to watch her grow as a runner and evolve as a racer. She's a very elegant runner. Even though she runs at a very strong pace, she's more powerful than people give her credit for. She has all the tools you need to go a long way in this sport."

Meyers 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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