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BRADLEY TECH. STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Dezerea Bryant of Bradley Tech. as its 2009-10 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bryant is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bradley Tech..

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 Bryant as Wisconsin'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, Bryant 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-2 junior sprinter won Division I state titles in the 100- and 200-meter dash, leading the Trojans to the state championship as a team. A three-time First Team All-State selection, Bryant set state records in the 100 with a time of 11.50 seconds and the 200 in 23.37, both of which ranked among the nation's top 50 performances by prep competitors under all conditions in 2010.

Bryant has maintained a 3.16 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her church community, she has served in her school's student government.

"Dezerea Bryant's whole life has been centered around running," said Bradley Tech High head coach Ken Williams. "She always motivates others and wants others to do as well as she can do."

Bryant 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.