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**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**CHANDLER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARIZONA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Hannah Carson of Chandler High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Carson is the second Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Chandler 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 Carson as Arizona'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, Carson 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, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-4 senior won two individual state championships this spring and led the Wolves to a sixth consecutive Division I state title as a team. Carson won the shot put with a throw of 45 feet, 1.5 inches and launched the discus 159 feet, 4 inches, outdistancing her next-closest competitor by more than 33 feet. The state's 2007-08 Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, she also finished second in the high jump, with a clearance of 5 feet, 8 inches. Carson's season-best javelin (170-9), discus (159-4) and shot put (46-9) performances all ranked nationally as top-20 distances among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection. She also won the shot put and discus at the 2008 and 2010 state meets as a freshman and junior. In addition to finishing ninth in the shot put (44-2), 13th in the high jump (5-4.5) and 15th in the discus (113-10), she won the javelin with a throw of 165-1 at this month's New Balance Outdoor Nationals.

Carson has maintained a 3.35 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth athletic instructor and as a mentor for underprivileged girls, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church, a homeless shelter, the Special Olympics and Mesa's Child Crisis Center.

"Being an athlete of small stature and performing in events with athletes that dwarf her, Hannah has been forced to develop a level of toughness and tenacity," said Chandler High Head Coach Eric Richardson, "It's something I've seldom seen in high school athletes or at any level."

Carson has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Texas Tech University 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.

Carson joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jasmine Todd (2009-10, Chandler) and Jessica Tonn (2008-09, Xavier College Prep) among the state's list of former award winners.

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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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