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**ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Maggie Montoya of Rogers High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Montoya is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rogers 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 Montoya as Arkansas' 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, Montoya 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 sophomore distance runner won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:18.06, the 1600-meter run in 5:16.28 and the 3200-meter run in 11:22.22 at the Class 7A state meet this spring, leading the Mounties to a fourth-place finish as a team. A 2011 First Team All-State selection, Montoya also won the 1600 at the Arkansas Meet of Champions with a time of 4:59.51, beating her next-closest competitor by 33 seconds.

Montoya has maintained a 3.81 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished percussionist with her school band, she is a devoted parishioner of her church community and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Maggie Montoya is one of the finest distance runners in the state of Arkansas," said Randall Ramaker, head coach of rival Bentonville High. "She was clearly the best at the state meet this year. There was no one who came close."

Montoya 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.

Montoya joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Grace Heymsfield (2009-10 & 2008-09, Elkins) and Stephanie Foreman (2007-08, Lake Hamilton) 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.

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