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**CENTRAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Jena Hemann of Central Community High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hemann is the first Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Central Community 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 Hemann as Illinois' 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, Hemann 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-9 senior won four individual Class A state championships this spring and led the Cougars to a fourth-place finish as a team. Hemann soared 20 feet, 1.5 inches in the long jump, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 leap among prep competitors in 2011, and she cleared five feet, seven inches to win the high jump. She won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.02 seconds and captured the triple jump with a mark of 37 feet, 11.75 inches. Hemann's season-best high jump of six feet ranked No. 2 nationally at the time of her selection.

Hemann has maintained an A-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth track programs, and has raised funds to benefit the American Red Cross, Ronald McDonald House Charities and cancer research.

"Jena Hemann is a better person than she is an athlete," said Breese Central High Head Coach Greg Kruse. "That says tons about her, because she is an extremely elite athlete. She's been a great team leader, and the hardest worker on our track team for the past four years."

Hemann has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Texas A&M 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.

Hemann joins recent Gatorade Illinois Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kelsey Card (2009-10, Carlinville) and Daniella Bunch (2008-09 & 2007-08, Mahomet-Seymour) 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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