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**EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Shelby Houlihan of East High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Houlihan is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from East 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 Houlihan as Iowa'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, Houlihan 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-3 senior distance runner won three individual state championships this spring and led the Black Raiders to a third consecutive Class 4A state title as a team. Houlihan set state-meet records in both the 800-meter run with a time of 2:08.15 and the 1500-meter run, breaking the tape in 4:29.97. She also won the 400-meter dash in 55.52 and anchored the winning 4x400-meter relay quartet with a time of 3:54.14. The 2010-11 Gatorade Iowa Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year and the 2011 Drake Relays Female Athlete of the Year, Houlihan's winning times in the 800 (2:07.69), the 1500 (4:29.26) and the 3000 (9:56.71) at the Drake Relays are all ranked among the nation's top 20 performances by prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection.

Houlihan has maintained a 3.52 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit breast cancer research and on behalf of an area soup kitchen providing meals for the needy.

"Shelby Houlihan is one of the most competitive and hard-working athletes that I have had the privilege to coach," said East High Head Coach Rick Clarahan. "She had set a goal to win three individual titles at both the Drake Relays and the state meet this year and was very focused the entire year as she went undefeated in all her individual races."

Houlihan has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Arizona State 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.

Houlihan joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Hannah Willms (2009-10, Dike-New Hartford), Whitney Westrum (2008-09, Waukee), and Betsy Flood (2007-08, Dowling Catholic) 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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