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**OLATHE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Megan Smith of Olathe South High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Smith is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Olathe South 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 Smith as Kansas' 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, Smith 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 6-foot senior won the discus and the shot put at the Class 6A state meet this spring, launching the discus 151 feet, one inch, and putting the shot 48 feet, two inches. Smith also captured the shot put event at the Kansas Relays, and her season-best effort of 50 feet, two inches ranked as the nation's No. 4 throw among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection.

Smith has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school reading program and an area food pantry.

"She has great natural ability, but she's always willing to put in extra time," said Olathe South Head Coach Tim Quinn. "She's a true scholar-athlete, and one of the most outstanding people I have known."

Smith has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Texas Christian 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kearsten Peoples (2009-10, Ottawa), Heather Bergmann (2008-09, Concordia), and Roxi Grizzle (2007-08, Tonganoxie) 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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