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**HOLY NAME CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS
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 Nadia Eke of Holy Name Central Catholic High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Eke is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Holy Name Central Catholic 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 Eke as Massachusetts' 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, Eke 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-10 senior won the long jump with a leap of 18 feet, 11.25 inches and the triple jump, soaring 41 feet, six inches, at the All-State Meet this spring. At the New England Interscholastic Outdoor Track & Field Championships this spring, Eke finished first in the long jump, with an effort of 18 feet, 1.75 inches, and the triple jump, landing a meet-record distance of 41 feet, 9.5 inches, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance in 2011 at the time of her selection. She won the triple jump at the New England championships in three consecutive years.

Also a basketball standout, Eke has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and her school's yearbook committee, she has volunteered on behalf of an anti-bullying campaign, the American Red Cross and Students Against Destructive Decisions.

"Nadia is a very hard-worker who does not settle on past performances," said Holy Name Central Catholic High Head Coach Craig Derrell. "She is always seeking ways to improve herself, setting goals and achieving them. She has done this while being very humble and an honor student."

Eke will attend Columbia University this fall, where she will compete in track and field.

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.

Eke joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Deanna Latham (2009-10, Triton Regional) and Emily Jones (2008-09 & 2007-08, The Bromfield School) 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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