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**GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Hannah Meier of Grosse Pointe South High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Meier is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Grosse Pointe 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 Meier as Michigan'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, Meier 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-6 sophomore won the 800-meter run with a state-record time of 2:07.37 and captured the 1600-meter run in a state-record 4:42.60 at the Division 1 Lower Peninsula Track & Field Finals this spring, leading the Blue Devils to the state title as a team. Both of Meier's state championship performances ranked among the nation's top six times by prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection. She also finished second in the mile (4:45.28) at this month's New Balance Outdoor Nationals.

Meier has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of area homeless shelters and youth track programs, and has prepared care packages for servicemen overseas.

"I can honestly say Hannah is the most complete athlete and one of the finest teammates I have ever had in our program," said Grosse Pointe South Head Coach Steve Zaranaek. "On the track she is, no doubt, the most versatile athlete in the state."

Meier 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.

Meier joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Megan Goethals (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rochester) and Ariel Roberts (2007-08, Pioneer) 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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