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BAGLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Analisa Huschle of Bagley High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Huschle is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bagley 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 Huschle as Minnesota'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, Huschle 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-5 senior sprinter and jumper won four individual state championships this spring and led the Flyers to a share of the Class A state title as a team. Huschle set a state record in the triple jump with a leap of 39 feet, four and a half inches and also took first-place in the long jump (18-2.5). Also the 2008-09 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Huschle broke the tape in the 100-meter run with a time of 12.22 and the 200-meter run in 24.68 at this year's Class A state meet.

Huschle has maintained a 3.80 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished vocalist and a member of her school's dance team, she is a devoted parishioner of her church community and has volunteered locally as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society.

"As an athlete, Analisa Huschle was by far the best overall performer at the Class A state meet this year," said Nate Pfeilsticker, head coach of rival Plainview-Elgin-Millville High. "There simply was not another girl in her league."

Huschle has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of South Dakota 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.

Huschle joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jessica January (2009-10, Richfield) and Kylie Peterson (2007-08, Apple Valley) 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.