

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**SCOTTSBLUFF HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Aubree Worden of Scottsbluff High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Worden is the first Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Scottsbluff 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 Worden as Nebraska'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, Worden 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 senior distance runner won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:50.06 and the 3200-meter run in 10:27.33 at the Class B state meet this spring, leading the Bearcats to a fifth-place finish as a team. Also the 2009-10 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year and a two-time Gatorade Nebraska Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Worden set state records in both the 1600 and the 3200 and ran the fastest times in all classes for the third straight year. Her times in each event ranked among the nation's top 25 performances by prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection.

Worden has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. An active member of her school's Letterman's Club and Spanish Club, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"The performances that Aubree Worden has produced this season speak highly of her ability and her hard work," said John Ganser, head coach of rival Sidney High. "She's a person of quality character and a true team leader for her high school squad."

Worden has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Florida 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.

Worden joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kelli Budd (2008-09, Marian) and Emily Sisson (2007-08, Millard North) 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.

###