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**PARAMUS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Myasia Jacobs of Paramus Catholic High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jacobs is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Paramus 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 Jacobs as New Jersey'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, Jacobs 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 junior won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.47 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 24.01 at the Meet of Champions for the third consecutive spring, clocking the nation's No. 7 and No. 23 performances, respectively, among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection. Jacobs also finished first in the 100-meter dash in 11.98 and the 200-meter dash in 24.43 at the Non-Public A state meet, leading the Paladins to fifth place as a team. Jacobs placed second at the adidas Grand Prix in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.90 seconds. She won the 60-meter dash at the New Balance Indoor Nationals this past winter in addition to capturing a silver medal in the 100-meter dash and a gold medal in the sprint medley relay at the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August 2010. She placed second in the 100-meter dash (11.59) at this month's New Balance Outdoor Nationals.

Jacobs has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a youth track and field instructor and as part of her school's Ambassador Club, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, a nursing home and the Boys & Girls Club of America.

"I can guarantee we'll never see anything like her again," said Paramus Catholic High Head Coach Scott Langan. "New Jersey has a pretty good history of sprinters, and she did something no other sprinter has ever done, winning the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the Meet of Champions three years in a row, and there's no reason she won't do it again next year. She's absolutely a once-in-a-lifetime athlete. It's been a pleasure to watch, and it should be even more entertaining next year when she's a year older and a year stronger."

Jacobs will begin her senior 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.

Jacobs joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ajeé Wilson (2009-10, Neptune), Jillian Smith (2008-09, Southern Regional), and Melanie Thompson (2007-08, Voorhees) 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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