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Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**ALBUQUERQUE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 Julia Foster of Albuquerque Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Foster is the first Gatorade New Mexico Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Albuquerque Academy.

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 Foster as New Mexico'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, Foster 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-8 senior distance runner won the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:06.90 and the 3200-meter run in 11:23.52 at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Chargers to a third-place finish as a team. Also the 2009-10 Gatorade New Mexico Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year and a two-time Gatorade New Mexico Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Foster ran a personal-best 10:19.79 at the Arcadia Invitational, which ranked among the nation's top 15 performances by a prep competitor in 2011 at the time of her selection.

Foster has maintained a 90.0 average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth mentor for disadvantaged children and on behalf of area food banks providing meals for families in need.

"Julia Foster is a great athlete and no one in New Mexico comes close to her as a distance runner," said Paul Anderson, head coach of rival Los Alamos High. "I know she was battling injuries at the end of the season and she handled it very gracefully. She wanted to help her team win at all times."

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

Foster joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Lesly Torres (2008-09, Los Lunas) and Skye Barnett (2007-08, Cibola) 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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