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**CORNWALL CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Aisling Cuffe of Cornwall Central High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade New York Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Cuffe is the first Gatorade New York Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cornwall Central 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 Cuffe as New York'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, Cuffe 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-4 senior won the 3,000-meter run with a state-record time of 9:16.63 at the New York Federation Championships this spring, leading the Dragons to a second-place finish as a team. The reigning Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Cuffe also finished second in the 1,500-meter run. At this month's New Balance Outdoor Nationals, she shattered the national record in the two-mile with a clocking of 9:54.22, becoming the first high school girl to break the 10-minute barrier. Cuffe also captured the 1600-meter run in 4:40.56, and the 3200-meter run in 9:56.16 at New York's Loucks Games—both performances ranked No. 1 in the nation among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection. She won the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships last fall and was the two-mile champion this past winter at the New Balance Indoor Nationals.

Cuffe has maintained an A average in the classroom. A four-year member of the Cornwall Central Math Team and its returning high-scorer, Cuffe has donated her time to and fund-raised for multiple local and national community-service initiatives in association with her school's Key Club chapter. Also a National Honor Society inductee, she has volunteered on behalf of area youth road races and track invitational meets.

"I've never worked with an athlete as dedicated and self-motivated as Aisling Cuffe," said Cornwall Head Coach Dave Feuer. "Although she's already accomplished many great things, she never stops trying to improve and reach new heights."

Cuffe 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.

Cuffe joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Melissa Kurzdorfer (2009-10, Lancaster), Shelby Greany (2008-09, Suffern), and Charlene Lipsey (2007-08, Hempstead) 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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