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**CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA
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 Kendra Harrison of Clayton High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Harrison is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Clayton 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 Harrison as North Carolina'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, Harrison 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 100-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.69 seconds and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 41.41 at the Class 4A state championship meet this spring, leading the Comets to a fourth-place finish as a team. Harrison was named Class 4A state meet MVP each of the last two seasons and both of her state-championship marks ranked among the nation's top five performances by prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection. She also won the 100 hurdles (13.64) at this month's New Balance Outdoor Nationals and finished fourth in the 400 hurdles.

Harrison has maintained a 3.21 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of area nursing homes and soup kitchens, and has participated in multiple service-mission trips to underprivileged or disaster-stricken regions of the country.

"Keni has a unique talent, but she exemplifies hard work and humility," said Clayton High Head Coach Thomas Coughlin. "Teammates, competitors, coaches and the community have learned a lot just from watching how Keni prepares and how she handles success."

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

Harrison joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sanura Eley O'Reilly (2009-10, Jack Britt), Aslynn Halvorson (2008-09, Butler), and Jacinda Evans (2007-08, Southern) 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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