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**GRESHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Haley Crouser of Gresham High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Crouser is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Gresham 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 Crouser as Oregon'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, Crouser 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 6-foot sophomore won the javelin event with a throw of 169 feet, seven inches at the Class 6A state championship meet, leading the Gophers to a second-place finish as a team. Crouser also took second in the shot put, third in the 100-meter intermediate hurdles and fourth in the long jump. Her season-best of 173 feet in the javelin ranked as the nation's No. 3 distance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection, and represents the seventh-best in prep history.

Crouser has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs, community clean-up initiatives and an environmental project aimed at restoring the natural habitat on a section of Kelley Creek.

"The time, dedication and hard work that Haley and her family have put in over the years is unmatched," said Gresham High Head Coach Chris Koenig. "She remains very humble as she continues to break records and win state titles. I'm excited to see her continue to grow and achieve her goals over the next few years."

Crouser will begin her junior 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.

Crouser joins three-time Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year Kellie Schueler (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Summit) 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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