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**BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH 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 LeAnna Morrison of Berkeley High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Morrison is the first Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Berkeley 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 Morrison as South 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, Morrison 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 5-6 senior won three individual state titles this spring and led the Stags to a third-place finish at the Class AAA state meet as a team. Morrison won the 400-meter intermediate hurdles with a state-record time of 1:00.69, which ranked as the nation's No. 9 time among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection. The Class AAA Girls Track Athlete of the Year, she also won the 100-meter high hurdles in 14.59 seconds and the triple jump with a leap of 39 feet, 5 inches.

Morrison has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom. A 2,000-point scorer for the Berkeley High girls basketball team and a U.S. Army Reserve Scholar-Athlete of the Year, she was a member of her school's Beta Club and has volunteered locally as a youth basketball coach.

"LeAnna Morrison is the real deal, there is no doubt about it," said George Moss, head coach of rival J.L. Mann High. "She's dynamic. That's phenomenal to have a girl that size doing hurdles and doing them outstanding."

Morrison has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field or basketball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte beginning 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.

Morrison joins three-time Gatorade South Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year Briana Nelson (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, J.L. Mann Academy) 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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