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**PLANO EAST SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Jennifer Madu of Plano East Senior High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Madu is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Plano East Senior 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 Madu as Texas' 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, Madu 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-6 junior won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.63 seconds and soared 40 feet, 3.25 inches to capture the triple jump at the Class 5A state championship meet this spring, leading the Panthers to a fifth-place finish as a team. The *Dallas Morning News* Female Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Madu also finished second in the long jump. Her season-best marks in the 100, long jump and triple jump all ranked among the nation's top 25 performances by prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection.

Madu has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church's youth ministry, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity and Christmas toy drives.

"Jennifer is an amazing leader on the track and off," said Plano East High Head Coach Chris Lillie. "She does all the little things that make any coach proud, and off the track she is an amazing student."

Madu will begin her senior 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.

Madu joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year A'Lexus Brannon (2009-10, Ozen Magnet), Chelsey Sveinsson (2008-09, Greenhill School), and Donique' Flemings (2007-08, Saginaw) 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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