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**HATTIESBURG HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Taryn Hartfield of Hattiesburg High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hartfield is the second Gatorade Mississippi Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hattiesburg 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 Hartfield as Mississippi'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, Hartfield 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-7 senior won the 100-meter high hurdles with a state-record time of 14.14 seconds and captured the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 45.31 at the Class 6A state championship meet this spring. Hartfield also finished second in the triple jump and was named Mississippi's Girls Track and Field PopStar. Hartfield's championship time in the 100 hurdles ranked as the nation's No. 29 performance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection.

Hartfield has maintained an A average in the classroom. A tutor for young students, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs and an area daycare center, and has raised funds for autism research.

"Taryn is one of the best athletes I've ever coached, on and off the track," said Hattiesburg Head Coach Charles Green. "She's a better person than she is an athlete. I'm going to hate to see her leave."

Hartfield has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Mississippi 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.

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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