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**SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2011) — In its 26<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Mollie Gribbin of South Burlington High School as its 2010-11 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gribbin is the third Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from South Burlington 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 Gribbin as Vermont'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, Gribbin 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-8 junior won four individual state championships this spring and led the Rebels to the Division I state title as a team. Gribbin won the 100-meter dash in 12.49 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 25.81, the long jump with a leap of 18 feet, 5.5 inches and the triple jump (39-10). A 14-time state champion, she is the state record-holder in the 100, long jump, triple jump and indoor 55-meter dash, in addition to owning a share of state records in the 4x100-meter relay and the indoor 4x200-meter relay. Her season-best, state-record triple jump of 39-11.5 ranked as the nation's No. 13 distance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection.

Gribbin has maintained a 3.90 GPA in the classroom. A member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally as a youth track coach.

"Mollie is by far an elite athlete and beyond any others I have coached," said South Burlington head coach Nicole Colantoni. "She is an athlete in every sense of the word. She is so humble that she still doesn't realize how good she is and what she can accomplish."

Gribbin 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.

Gribbin joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Hannah Rowe (2009-10 & 2008-09, St. Johnsbury Academy) and Sarah Sherman (2007-08, Essex) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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