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**BUCKHANNON-UPSHUR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Emily Godwin of Buckhannon-Upshur HS as its 2010-11 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Godwin is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Buckhannon-Upshur HS.

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 Godwin as West Virginia'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, Godwin 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-9 sophomore won three individual state championships this spring and led the Buccaneers to a second straight Class AAA state title as a team. Godwin won the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in a state-record time of 44.23 seconds and captured the 100-meter high hurdles in 14.77. She also finished first in the high jump, with a leap of 5 feet, 8 inches, and third in the long jump (16-10). Godwin is the state record-holder in the high jump with a season-best clearance of 5-10, which ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2011 at the time of her selection.

Godwin has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. The president of her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered locally as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer research and the American Heart Association, as well as on behalf of American Red Cross blood-donation drives.

"Emily is every coach's dream student-athlete," said Buckhannon-Upshur coach Jackie Zuliani. "She's gifted with athleticism but she understands greatness is only achieved with hard work and dedication. She's a great team player and believes in the team concept which makes her a very special and unique athlete and person."

Godwin 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.

Godwin joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Bria Welker (2009-10, Frankfort), Taylor Brown (2008-09, Jefferson), and Meghan Mock (2007-08, Berkeley Springs) 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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