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**HAR-BER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Payton Stumbaugh of Har-Ber High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Stumbaugh is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Har-Ber 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 Stumbaugh as Arkansas' 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, Stumbaugh 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-10 sophomore sprinter, hurdler, jumper and pole vaulter won five individual state championships this spring, leading the Wildcats to a third-place finish as a team at the Class 7A state meet. Stumbaugh won the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.35 seconds, the 100-meter hurdles in 14.98, the 300-meter hurdles in 44.74, the high jump with a leap of five feet, three inches and the pole vault, soaring 10 feet, six inches. The 2012 Northwest Arkansas Times All-Big 6 Girls Track Newcomer of the Year, she also won the girls' state heptathlon with 4,260 points, earning individual titles in the 100 with a time of 15.15, the 200 in 25.23 and the 800-meter run in 2:49.15.

Stumbaugh has maintained a 3.70 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of St. Jude's Children's Hospital, the Future Fisherman Foundation's Hooked on Fishing Not Drugs program and as part of a literacy-outreach initiative.

"Payton Stumbaugh is an extraordinary talent and she has an extremely bright future ahead of her," said Har-Ber High Head Coach Jodi Unger. "She is focused, driven, disciplined and has a hunger for success. She is a tremendous student, a loyal friend and an overall kind person."

Stumbaugh 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 ESPNHS 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.

Stumbaugh joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Maggie Montoya (2010-11, Rogers High School), Grace Heymsfield ((2008-09 & 2009-10, Elkins), and Stephanie Foreman (2007-08, Lake Hamilton) 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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