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**HILLHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE CONNECTICUT GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Precious Holmes of Hillhouse High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Holmes is the second Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hillhouse 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 Holmes as Connecticut'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, Holmes 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Holmes won the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.51 seconds and the 400-meter dash in 53.92 at the State Open this spring, leading the Academics to second place as a team. A two-time returning All-State selection as named by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association, the 5-foot-4 junior sprinter swept the 200-meter dash in a class-record 24.04 seconds and 400-meter dash in a class-record 54.42 at the Class MM Championships. She also ran the third leg of the winning 4x400-meter relay squad that broke the tape in 3:58.43. Holmes clocked a 52.67 in the 400-meter dash at the Loucks Games, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 performance by prep competitors in 2012 at the time of her selection.

Holmes has maintained a B average in the classroom at New Haven Academy, where she attends high school and which does not offer a track program. She has donated her time as a youth track instructor in addition to volunteering annually on behalf of her track club at a local road race.

"I can wholeheartedly endorse Precious Holmes as the Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year," said Lin Schulte, head coach at rival Jonathan Law High. "She possesses all the qualities necessary while remaining humble and being a role model for other athletes."

Holmes 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 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.

Two-time winner Holmes joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Lindsay Crevoiserat (2009-10, Glastonbury), Meg Ryan (2008-09, Fairfield Warde), and Anna Shields (2007-08, Lewis Mills) 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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