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**BOYD ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Shayla Sanders of Boyd Anderson High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Sanders is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Boyd Anderson 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 Sanders as Florida'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, Sanders 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-6 senior won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.63 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 23.64 at the Class 4A state championship meet this spring, leading the Cobras to the state title as a team. Sanders also anchored the victorious 4x100 relay quartet in 45.71 seconds. The Sun-Sentinel Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, she also won this month's adidas Dream 100. Sanders best performances in the 100 (11.33), the 200 (23.25) and as part of the 4x100 (45.66) all ranked as the nation's No. 1 times among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of her selection. She season-best 100 clocking ranks No. 21 in high school history.

Sanders has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally helping intellectually challenged students transition into the community.

"Shayla has worked very hard over the past four years to get to the national elite level she has now reached," said Boyd Anderson coach Damion Thomas. "She's a role model to her classmates and to the community."

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

Sanders joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Robin Reynolds (2010-11, Miami Jackson High School), Kayla Parker (2009-10, Port St. Joe), and Ebony Eutsey (2007-08 & 2008-09, Miami Southridge Senior), 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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