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**BORAH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Brittany Owens of Borah High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Owens is the third Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Borah 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 Owens as Idaho'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, Owens 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-11 senior jumper and sprinter won the long jump with a leap of 19 feet, five-and-a-half inches and the triple jump (38 feet, 11 inches) this spring at the Class 5A state meet, leading the Lions to a seventh-place finish as a team. The 2010-11 Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Owens became the first female in state history to eclipse 20 feet in the long jump, setting a state record with a leap of 20 feet and one-quarter inches at the YMCA Invitational in April.

Owens has maintained a 3.36 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an area foster home and the YMCA. She is one of eight individuals to receive the Boise City Department of Arts and History's 2012 Mayoral Award for Excellence in Art and History.

"Brittany Owens is truly a remarkable person as well as a great athlete," said YMCA Team Idaho director Tim Severa. "She treats her competition with tremendous respect and is very humble in her own abilities."

Owens has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Louisville 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 Owens joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Allee Cooper (2009-10, Eagle), Liz Brandon (2008-09, Eagle), and Nicole Nielsen (2007-08, Borah) 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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