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**WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Skyler Carpenter of Westview High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Carpenter is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Westview 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 Carpenter as Indiana'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, Carpenter 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-7 senior won three individual state championships this spring and led the Warriors to a fourth-place finish as a team. Carpenter won the 100-meter high hurdles with a time of 14.13 seconds, the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 42.20 and soared 18 feet, 10.5 inches to capture the long jump. She was also named Indiana Ms. Track and Field.

Carpenter has maintained a 4.05 GPA in the classroom. Also a soccer and basketball standout, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school reading program and an area Boys and Girls Club.

"Skyler is the best athlete that I've had the opportunity to coach," said Westview High coach Jon Cook. "Her hard work and natural talent have made her successful."

Carpenter has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Vanderbilt University 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.

Carpenter joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tori Bliss (2010-11, Portage High School), Ellie McCardwell (2008-09 & 2009-10, Pendleton Heights), and Alex Banfich (2007-08, Culver Academies) 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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