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**WESTERN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Alisha Adair of Western Hills High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Adair is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Western Hills 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 Adair as Kentucky'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, Adair 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-8 junior sprinter won three individual state championships this spring and led the Wolverines to the Class 2A state championship as a team. Adair won the 100-meter dash in a time of 12.32 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 25.33 and the 400-meter dash in 56.53. She also ran the anchor leg of Western Hills' winning 4x400-meter relay team. Kentucky's 2012 Miss Track winner, she has won seven state titles in her prep track career, including four straight in the 200 meters.

Adair has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. The secretary of her school's Cultural Diversity Club and a member of the Spanish National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally at a women's shelter and as a clerk at middle school track meets.

"Alisha is blessed with some genetic ability, but she is a hard worker on the track in using that talent," said Frank Miklavcic, the president of the Kentucky Track & Cross Country Coaches Association. "She has the ability to compete, but also when she is heads and tails above her competitors, she has the ability to drive hard to meet some goals rather than just take it easy for the win."

Adair 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.

Adair joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Emma Brink (2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11, Sacred Heart Academy), and Lutisha Bowen (2007-08, Ballard) 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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