FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Mobolaji Adeokun of DuVal High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Adeokun is the first Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from DuVal 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 Adeokun as Maryland'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, Adeokun 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-5 senior sprinter, hurdler and field athlete won four individual state championships this spring and led the Tigers to fourth place as a team at the Class 4A state meet. A First Team All-Met selection as named by The Washington Post, Adeokun won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.91 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 24.55. She finished first in the 100-meter hurdles in 13.75 seconds and the long jump, with a leap of 19 feet, 6.5 inches, setting Class 4A records in both events. Adeokun's 100-meter hurdles, long jump and 100-meter dash efforts at the Class 4A state meet ranked as the nation's No. 10, No. 13 and No. 73 performances, respectively, among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of her selection.

Adeokun has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom and serves as part of her school's student government. A member of a youth choir, the National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society, she has donated more than 100 hours of community service to a local nursing home.

"Everything I have seen from Adeokun has been spectacular," said Carl Rose, head coach at rival H.T. Flowers High. "I've watched her develop over the last few years and she has worked hard to become one of the best track and field athletes in Prince George's County, Maryland and East Coast history. She is a great athlete, student and citizen."

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

Adeokun joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Olivia Ekpone (2009-10 & 2010-11, Northwest High School), Lorraine Graham (2008-09, Charles Herbert Flowers), and Olivia Ekpone (2007-08, Wootton) 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.

###