

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**NEWTON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Carla Forbes of Newton North High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Forbes is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Newton North 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 Forbes as Massachusetts' 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, Forbes 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 junior field athlete won the long jump, with a leap of 19 feet, one inch, and the triple jump, soaring 40 feet, at the All-State Meet this spring, leading the Tigers to first place as a team. An All-Scholastic as named by The Boston Globe and Boston Herald this past winter, Forbes ran the third leg of the second-place 4x100-meter relay squad that crossed the line in 49.78 seconds at the All-State Meet. She also swept the long jump (19 feet, 3.5 inches) and the triple jump (41 feet, two inches) at the Eastern Mass. Division 1 championships, setting meet records in both events. In addition to winning the long jump at the Nike Indoor Nationals in 2011, Forbes won the triple jump at the 2010 Nike Indoor Nationals as a sophomore, the 2011 World Youth Track & Field Trials as a junior and the 2012 New Balance Indoor Nationals this past winter.

Forbes has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. She has donated her time as a youth athletic instructor and mentor on behalf of the Waltham Track Club.

"Carla has a tremendous competitive spirit and a driving force to be the best that she can be," said Newton North Head Coach Joe Tranchita. "Her attention to details surpasses any athlete I have coached, as does her work ethic. Her desire to not only be the best, but to do her best each and every workout and competition, has led her to become a real student of her events."

Forbes 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.

Forbes joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Nadia Eke (2010-11, Holy Name Central Catholic High School), Deanna Latham (2009-10, Triton Regional), and Emily Jones (2007-08 & 2008-09, The Bromfield School), 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.

###