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**GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Hannah Meier of Grosse Pointe South High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Meier is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Grosse Pointe South 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 Meier as Michigan'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, Meier 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 won two individual state titles and anchored two victorious relays to lead the Blue Devils to the Division I state championship as a team this spring. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Meier won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:08.57 and the 1,600-meter run in 4:43.05, the latter of which ranked as the nation's No. 4 time among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of her selection. The Grosse Pointe South 4x400-meter relay quartet won in 3:51.89 and Meier's final leg lifted the 4x800-meter relay squad to the fourth-fastest time in U.S. prep history, 8:48.29.

Meier has maintained a 3.85 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of area homeless shelters and youth track programs, and has served as a middle school tutor.

"Hannah's individual accomplishments have been extraordinary and numerous," said Grosse Pointe South head coach Steve Zaranaek. "I can honestly say she is the most complete athlete and one of the finest teammates I have ever had in our program."

Meier 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.

Two-time winner Meier joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Megan Goethals (2008-09 & 2009-10, Rochester), and Ariel Roberts (2007-08, Pioneer) 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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