

**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 Erika Sisk of Oxford High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Mississippi Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Sisk is the first Gatorade Mississippi Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Oxford 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 Sisk as Mississippi'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, Sisk 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 soared 40 feet, two inches to win the triple jump and captured the long jump with a leap of 18 feet, four inches at the Class 5A state meet, leading the Chargers to the championship as a team. Sisk also ran the lead leg on the victorious 4x400-meter relay team and finished fourth in the 400-meter run.

Sisk has maintained a B average in the classroom. Also a basketball standout, she has volunteered locally on behalf of food drives and youth sports programs.

"Erika is one of those special athletes who has a positive impact on the team as a whole," said Oxford coach Jamie Perkins. "She hasn't had the type of training specifically for jumping, but she has been blessed by God with such natural talent."

Sisk has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at Murray State College 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.

Sisk joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Taryn Hartfield (2010-11, Hattiesburg High School), and Cory McGee (2007-08, 2008-09 & 2009-10, Pass Christian), 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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