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**REED HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Gabby Williams of Reed High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Williams is the fourth Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Reed 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 Williams as Nevada'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, Williams 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 returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-9 sophomore won three individual state championships this spring and led the Raiders to a third-place finish as a team. She won the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 14.11 seconds, the 300-meter hurdles in 42.86 and the high jump with a leap of 5 feet, 11 inches. Williams cleared 6-1.5 in the high jump at the Northern Regional meet which ranked as the No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of her selection.

Williams has maintained a weighted 3.59 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally providing Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children and as a youth basketball coach and instructor.

"When I think about what sets Gabby apart from the rest of her competition it is her dedication, work ethic and her love for competition," said Reed head coach Dale Moss. "She is always constantly working on her skills, especially her weakness. When she is asked to do something by her coaches, even when it is harder or above her current abilities, she says she can do it."

Williams will begin her junior 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 Williams joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Karli Jhonnot (2009-10, Centennial), Michaelanne Laurent (2008-09, Coronado), and Kayla Sanchez (2007-08, Carson) 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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