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**NEPTUNE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Ajeé Wilson of Neptune High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wilson is the first Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Neptune 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 Wilson as New Jersey'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, Wilson 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 state's 2009-10 Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Wilson won three individual state titles this spring and led the Scarlet Fliers to the Group III state meet. The 5-foot-8 senior middle-distance runner won the 400-meter dash with a time of 54.88 seconds, 800-meter run in 2:10.72 and 1,600-meter run in 4:54.63. Wilson also anchored the winning 4x400-meter relay squad that broke the tape in 3:51.44. She clocked a 2:02.61 in the 800-meter run at the adidas Grand Prix, which at the time of her selection ranked No. 1 in the nation among high school competitors this spring and No. 12 in U.S. prep history. The returning USA Track & Field National Youth Athlete of the Year, Wilson won the 800-meter run at the 2011 IAAF World Youth Championships, the 2011 World Youth Track & Field Trials and at back-to-back New Balance Indoor Nationals.

Wilson has maintained an A-minus average in the classroom and has served on her school's character committee. In addition to donating her time locally to a soup kitchen and as a member of her church's youth group, she has volunteered on behalf of The Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the March of Dimes Foundation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

"She has competed at an incredible level for years now, running as fast as many professional women—even as fast as someone as high in the ranks as 2008 U.S. Olympian Jenny Barringer," said Brendan McGoldrick, head coach at rival Red Bank Regional High. "All the while, she's maintaining fantastic grades, a down-to-earth attitude and a genuinely likable character."

Wilson has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Florida State University 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.

Wilson joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Myasia Jacobs (2010-11, Paramus Catholic High School), Ajeé Wilson (2009-10, Neptune), Jillian Smith (2008-09, Southern Regional), and Melanie Thompson (2007-08, Voorhees) 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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