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**MINOT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Morgan Milbrath of Minot High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Milbrath is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Minot 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 Milbrath as North Dakota'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, Milbrath 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-10 junior sprinter and hurdler won four individual state championships this spring and led the Majettes to a third-place finish as a team at the Class A state meet. Milbrath won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.10 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 24.33, the 400-meter dash in 56.02 and the 300-meter hurdles in 44.19. The 2010-11 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, she also set meet records in the 100 (11.98) and the 200 (24.35) at the Class A West Regional meet. Her 400 clocking at the state meet ranked as the nation's No. 24 time by a prep competitor at the time of her selection.

Milbrath has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Future Farmers of America, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Dream Catchers USA, a non-profit organization that provides outdoor activities for the physically challenged, and as a youth basketball and volleyball coach.

"Morgan Milbrath is very talented and gets stronger with every race," said Darrin McKinnon, head coach at West Fargo High. "She is someone you'd want to build your program around and she exhibits everything you'd want as a track and field athlete and as a person."

Milbrath 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 Milbrath joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Laura Roesler (2007-08, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Fargo South), 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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