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**GRESHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Haley Crouser of Gresham High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Crouser is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Gresham 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 Crouser as Oregon'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, Crouser 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 6-foot junior set the national record in the javelin throw this spring, with a season-best winning toss of 181 feet, two inches at the Aloha Relays. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Crouser won three individual Class 6A state titles and led the Gophers to a third-place finish as a team. She launched the javelin 170 feet, 11 inches, won the 100-meter high hurdles with a time of 15.58 seconds and captured the shot put with a throw of 44 feet, 6 inches. Crouser also won the javelin throw at this month's USA Track and Field Junior Outdoor Championships.

Crouser has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs and an environmental project aimed at restoring the natural habitat on a section of Kelley Creek.

"Crouser is pretty special," said Doug Binder, ESPN High School senior track and field editor. "She might be the National Track Athlete of the Year this spring, and as good a javelin thrower as she is, she could be an even better heptathlete. Her personal bests in those seven events stack up very nicely against anyone."

Crouser 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 Crouser joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kellie Schueler (2007-08, 2008-09 & 2009-10, Summit) 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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