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**SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Mollie Gribbin of South Burlington High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gribbin is the third Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from South Burlington 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 Gribbin as Vermont'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, Gribbin 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 returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior won four individual state championships at the Division I state meet for a second straight outdoor season and led the Rebels to a second-place finish as a team. Gribbin won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.10 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 25:16, the long jump with a leap of 18 feet, 3.25 inches and the triple jump (39-10). Also the triple jump champion at the New England Outdoor Championships, she concluded her prep track career with 22 individual state titles and 11 state records.

Gribbin has maintained a 3.82 GPA in the classroom. A member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally as part of fundraising campaigns to benefit leukemia research and as a youth track coach.

"Mollie Gribbin has been the best athlete in Vermont for the past two years in any sport," said Chip Langmaid, head coach of rival St. Johnsbury Academy. "She has not only destroyed records and won championships, but she has competed in any event that her team needed. I watched her when she was 8 years old and she hasn't stopped. It has been an honor to compete against her and simply to enjoy watching her compete."

Gribbin will attend Dartmouth College this fall, where she will compete with the track & field team.

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 Gribbin joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Hannah Rowe (2008-09 & 2009-10, St. Johnsbury Academy), and Sarah Sherman (2007-08, Essex) 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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