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**ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2012) — In its 27<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced Chase Lamers of Rogers High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lamers is the first Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rogers 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 Lamers as Arkansas' best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Lamers joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 6-foot-2, 175-pound junior sprinter won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.08 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 22.27 this spring, leading the Mountaineers to a fourth-place finish as a team at the Class 7A state meet. The 2012 Northwest Arkansas Media Big 6 Boys Track Runner of the Year, Lamers also won the 100 (11.04) and the 200 (22.24) at the Class 7A West Conference Meet.

Lamers has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI), the Arkansas Crisis Center and the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

"Chase Lamers emerged as a top sprinter in Arkansas this spring," said Drew Yoakum, head coach at Fayetteville High. "Week to week, you could just see him getting better and better. He showed up at the start of the season and really impressed all year."

Lamers will begin his 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.

Lamers joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Andrew Irwin (2009-10 & 2010-11, Mt. Ida High School), Caleb Cross (2008-09, Newport), and Jason Pelletier (2007-08, Bryant) 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](http://playeroftheyear.gatorade.com).

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