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**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Arman Hall of St. Thomas Aquinas High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hall is the second Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. Thomas Aquinas 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 Hall as Florida's 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, Hall 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-1 senior won the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.16 seconds and the 400-meter run in 47.08 at the Class 4A state championship meet, leading the Raiders to a fifth consecutive state title as a team. The reigning World Junior Champion in the 400 meters, Hall also anchored the 4x400-meter relay quartet to a state title in 3:14.46. He finished second in the 400 at this month's USA Track and Field Junior Outdoor Championships and his best time at the distance ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection.

Hall has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Florida Youth Track and Field Association.

"Arman is an amazement to watch, like poetry in motion," said St. Thomas Aquinas coach Alex Armenteros. "He's a very disciplined and motivated young man, and he has demonstrated a commitment to his team and to the sport."

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

Hall joins recent Gatorade Florida Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Armando del Valle (2010-11, Columbus High School), Cody Riggs (2009-10, St. Thomas Aquinas), Neamen Wise (2008-09, Lake Brantley), and Jeff Demps (2007-08, South Lake) 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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