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**CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Nick Hartle of Centennial High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hartle is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Hartle as Nevada'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, Hartle 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.).

A two-time Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year and the returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 6-foot-1, 140-pound senior won four individual state championships this spring and led the Bulldogs to a Class 4A state championship. Over two days, Hartle won the 400-meter dash with a time of 47.79 seconds, the 800 meters in 1:52.53, the 1,600 in 4:18.03 and the 3,200 in 9:28.27. Hartle set a state record in the 800 at the Great Southwest Classic with a time of 1:49.48, which ranked No. 6 nationally among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection. Hartle also owns the state records in the 1,600 (4:10.23) and as a member of Centennial's 4x800-meter relay and distance medley relay teams.

Hartle has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a charity thrift store and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and as a youth track coach.

"Nick had an amazing year, from posting national class victories with his relay teammates at California's two biggest invitationals to putting together a state meet quadruple for the ages to lead Centennial to the 4A title," said Steve Underwood, Senior Editor for ESPNHS/DyeStat.com. "Nick may have better 400 speed than any distance runner in the country."

Hartle has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at UCLA beginning 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 Hartle joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Garic Wharton (2008-09 & 2009-10, Valley), and Joseph Abbott (2007-08, Galena) 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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