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SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE TEXAS BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 21, 2012) — In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, today announced **Abraham Hall of South Grand Prairie High School** as its **2011-12 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Hall is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from South Grand Prairie 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 Texas'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 5-foot-11 senior won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.19 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 20.58 at the Class 5A state championships, leading the Warriors to a fourth-place finish as a team. Hall's winning effort in the 100 ranked as the nation's No. 1 time among prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection, while his time in the 200 was ranked No. 2 nationally. He also won the 100 at the Great Southwest Classic and finished third in the 100 at the adidas Dream Mile.

Hall has maintained a 3.71 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track and field programs and has participated in multiple community service initiatives with Mission Arlington.

"He's been a tremendous leader for our program, the first one to practice and the last to leave," said South Grand Prairie coach Ken Graber. "This was the first year that he didn't have weightlifting for football interfering with track, so I knew that he would be faster—but I didn't know that he'd be No. 1 in the country. He's got a great work ethic and a great head on his shoulders; he knows that he can always improve as a young man."

Hall will attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point this fall, where he will compete in track and field.

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 Texas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Devin Field (2010-11, Lancaster High School), Sheroid Evans (2009-10, Dulles), and Marquise Goodwin (2007-08 & 2008-09, Rowlett) 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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