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**ANNANDALE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Ahmed Bile of Annandale High School as its 2011-12 Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bile is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Annandale 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 Bile as Virginia'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, Bile 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 two-time Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 6-foot-3 senior won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:51.52 and the 1,600-meter run in 4:13.12 at the Group AAA state meet this spring, leading the Atoms to a share of the state title as a team. A two-time Foot Locker Cross Country All-American selection and the Washington Post 2011 All-Met Cross Country Runner of the Year, his season-best times in the 800 (1:51.52), 1,600 (4:08.29) and mile (4:04.11) all ranked among the nation's top 30 performances by prep competitors in 2012 at the time of his selection.

Bile has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's Young Democrats of America chapter, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor and at electoral polling venues.

"I'm not sure what else Ahmed could have done for us this year," said Sean Miller, head coach of Annandale High. "He was poised to break the state meet record in the 800 or 1600 but because our team was in the running to win the state championship he had to triple once again and just do what it took to win the race and not go for individual glory."

Bile has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Georgetown University 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.

Bile joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Isaiah Simmons (2010-11, Woodbridge High School), Darrell Wesh (2009-10, Landstown), Tyler Stutzman (2008-09, Western Albemarle), and Peter Dorrell (2007-08, Blacksburg) 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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