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**COLONY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Audrey Michaelson of Colony High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Michaelson is the first Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Colony 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 Michaelson as Alaska's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Michaelson joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-8 senior won three individual state championships this season and led the Knights to a second-place finish at the Class 4A state meet. Named the meet's outstanding competitor, Michaelson broke the tape in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:16.92, 1,600-meter run in 5:10.94 and 3,200-meter run in 11:21.03. Her fastest times at 400, 800, 1,600 and 3,200 meters each ranked in the top 75 among Northwest prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection. She also captured first place in the 1600 and 3200 as a junior at the 2012 Class 4A state meet in addition to winning the 3,200 as a sophomore in 2011.

Also a cross country and basketball standout, Michaelson has maintained a 4.24 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and French National Honor Society as well as her school's Partners and Young Life clubs, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her church, community road races and the Mat-Su Animal Shelter.

"She is a standout student-athlete with exemplary character," said Francine Lombard, head coach of rival Palmer High. "When you see her winning a race and giving it her all, she turns right around to greet and cheer on her competitors. She is the Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to me. She will be missed next year on the track. She was a fun athlete to watch, and she was an excellent role model for all athletes."

Michaelson has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Loyola University Chicago 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 the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with [USA TODAY High School Sports](#), 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.

Michaelson joins recent Gatorade Alaska Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Morgan Dampier (2011-12 & 2010-11, Wasilla High School), Lierin Flanagan (2009-10, Kenai Central), Gabrielle Todd (2008-09, Bartlett), Leah Francis (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas), and Andrea Crook (2006-2007, Bartlett) 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 www.gatorade.com/poy.