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**HAR-BER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARKANSAS 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 Payton Stumbaugh of Har-Ber High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Stumbaugh is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Har-Ber 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 Stumbaugh as Arkansas'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, Stumbaugh 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-10 junior sprinter, hurdler and jumper won three individual state championships this spring, leading the Wildcats to a third-place finish as a team at the Class 7A state meet. Stumbaugh won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.15 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 25.51 and the 300-meter in 47.63. She also won a pair of individual titles at the Meet of Champions, breaking the tape in the 200 with a time of 24.70 and the 300 hurdles in 43.37. The 2011-12 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Stumbaugh earned second place in the 2013 Arkansas Heptathlon with 4,538 points

Stumbaugh has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has served as an elected member of her school's student council and has volunteered locally on behalf of Potter's House Thrift, collecting clothes and furniture for families in need.

"Payton Stumbaugh worked harder this year than any athlete I have ever been around," said Har-Ber High head coach Brett Unger. "She ruptured a disk in her back during the indoor track and field season, but she spent countless hours training to strengthen her back and stay in shape. She was determined to do everything she could to come back this season and come back strong."

Stumbaugh will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Stumbaugh joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Maggie Montoya (2010-11, Rogers High School), Grace Heymsfield (2009-10 & 2008-09, Elkins), Stephanie Foreman (2007-08, Lake Hamilton), and Natasha Shockey (2006-2007, Russellville) 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.

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