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**CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 Sasha Wallace of Castro Valley High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wallace is the first Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Castro Valley 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 Wallace as California'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, Wallace 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 state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Wallace won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 13.43 seconds and the triple jump with a leap of 41 feet, 9.5 inches at the state meet this spring, leading the Trojans to third place as a team. The 5-foot-9 senior also finished sixth with a long jump of 18-11. Wallace's triple jump of 42-4 at the Sacramento Meet of Champions, her 100-meter hurdles time of 13.43 at the state meet and her long jump of 19-2.75 at the West Alameda County Conference championships, respectively, ranked first, second and 22nd among U.S. prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection. She also won the 100-meter hurdles and triple jump as a Holy Names High junior at the 2012 state meet.

Wallace has maintained a 3.09 GPA in the classroom and received the Alameda Association of African-American Educators' scholar award. In addition to donating her time as a youth track instructor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Doctors on Board Program, Pathways to College Network, East Oakland Youth Development Center, One Step Closer and the Oakland Bay Area Links service organization.

"With Sasha, you have a multi-skilled athlete who can perform at a national level in three events—from highly technical in the 100 hurdles to more power-oriented in the long jump and triple jump," said Tony Green, head coach of rival Bishop O'Dowd High. "You also have an athlete who can potentially score in seven out of the 15 events in track and field."

Wallace has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Wallace joins Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sasha Wallace (2011-12, Holy Names High School), Amy Weissenbach (2010-11, Harvard-Westlake School), Ashton Purvis (2009-10, Saint Elizabeth), Anna Jelmini (2008-09, Shafter), Christine Babcock (2007-08, Woodbridge), and Tori Anthony (2006-2007, Castilleja School) 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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