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**EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Brittany Neeley of Eastern High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Neeley is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Eastern 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 Neeley as Indiana'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, Neeley 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-6 senior won the 800-meter run in a state-record time of 2:07.91 at this spring's state championship meet, leading the Comets to a fourth-place finish as a team. Neeley helped set another state record as part of the 4x800-meter relay quartet, capturing the state title in 8:53.74, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection.

Neeley has maintained an A average in the classroom. Also a basketball standout, she has served as an assistant in a special education classroom and has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and youth basketball camps.

"Brittany is an awesome competitor and a great athlete," said Eastern head coach Michael Goodspeed. "But she's also an all-star person and a great role model. She's the finest student-athlete I've ever known."

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

Neeley joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Skyler Carpenter (2011-12, Westview High School), Tori Bliss (2010-11, Portage High School), Ellie McCardwell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Pendleton Heights), Alex Banfich (2007-08, Culver Academies), and Katie Veith (2006-2007, Homestead) 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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