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**LINN-MAR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Stephanie Jenks of Linn-Mar High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jenks is the first Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Linn-Mar 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 Jenks as Iowa'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, Jenks 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-7 freshman distance runner won the 1500-meter run in a time of 4:31.14 and the 3000-meter run in 9:50.70, leading the Lions to a seventh-place finish as a team at the Class 4A state meet. A First Team All-State selection, Jenks was also a dual event winner at the Drake Relays, breaking the tape in the 1500 in 4:42.35 and the 3000 in 9:50.70. She also earned seventh as the state's fastest runner in the two-mile run at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships, crossing the line in 10:24.30, a clocking that ranked as the nation's No. 7 time by a prep competitor at the time of her selection.

Jenks has maintained a 4.02 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf Students Opposed to Drugs and Alcohol (S.O.D.A.) and her school's "Best Buddies" program, offering assistance to students with special needs.

"Stephanie Jenks is an exceptionally strong distance runner and competitor," said Rachel Tomas, head coach at Newton High. "She had an outstanding track season this spring."

Jenks will begin her sophomore 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.

Jenks joins recent Gatorade Iowa Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Rebekah Topham (2011-12, Griswold High School), Shelby Houlihan (2010-11, East High School), Hannah Willms (2009-10, Dike-New Hartford), Whitney Westrum (2008-09, Waukee), Betsy Flood (2007-08, Dowling Catholic), and Katie Flood (2006-2007, Dowling Catholic) 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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