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**GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Hannah Meier of Grosse Pointe South High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Meier remains the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Grosse Pointe South 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 Meier as Michigan'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, Meier 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 two individual state titles and anchored two victorious relays to lead the Blue Devils to the Division I state championship as a team this spring. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Meier won the 1600-meter run in a state-record time of 4:39.23, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 time among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection. She also broke the state record in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:06.35. Meier anchored the 4x400-meter relay to victory in 3:52.32 and her closing leg helped the 4x800-meter relay to a win in 9:01.98.

Meier has maintained a 3.84 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of homeless shelters and youth track programs, and has served as a middle school tutor.

"Hannah is, no doubt, the most versatile track athlete in the state, and has been since her freshman year," said Grosse Pointe South head coach Steve Zaranek. "She's also the most complete athlete and one of the finest teammates I've ever had the honor to have in our program."

Meier has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Duke 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.

Meier joins Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Megan Goethals (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rochester), Ariel Roberts (2007-08, Pioneer), and Mary Angell (2006-2007, Byron Center) 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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