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**ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Maggie Ewen of St. Francis High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ewen remains the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. Francis 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 Ewen as Minnesota'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, Ewen 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 senior thrower captured the Class AA state championship in this spring by launching the shot put 54 feet, 8.5 inches at the state meet, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 distance among prep competitors in 2013 and No. 2 in history at the time of her selection. Ewen also won the discus at the state meet with a throw of 167-1, but her 175-9 effort at a meet in May ranks as the No. 2 mark in the country this spring. The 2011-12 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, she won the discus at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships with a toss of 166-1.

Ewen has maintained a 3.9 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of her school's peer leadership team and as a youth track and field coach.

"In my 39 years of coaching, I have never seen a female thrower who is as dominant as Maggie Ewen," said Donald Finneran, head coach at Spring Lake High. "She's that good but she is also very humble and does not make a big splash to draw attention to herself."

Ewen has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at Arizona State 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.

Ewen joins Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Analisa Huschle (2010-11 & 2008-09, Bagley High School), Jessica January (2009-10, Richfield), Kylie Peterson (2007-08, Apple Valley), and Megan Geyen (2006-2007, Watertown-Mayer) 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.