

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**EUREKA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Long of Eureka High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Long is the third Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Eureka 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 Long as Missouri'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, Long 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-5 sophomore distance runner won three individual state championships this spring and led the Wildcats to a 17th place finish as a team at the Class 4 state meet. Long won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:11.06, the 1600-meter run in 4:49.53 and ran the opening leg for the 4x800-meter relay quartet that broke the tape in 9:21.01. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, she was a dual-event winner at the Kansas Relays, capturing the 800 in 2:12.81 and the 1600 in 4:49.95.

Long has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. An elected member of her school's student council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Needs Soccer Association (SPENSA) and has helped collect canned goods for families in need.

"Hannah Long has served the running community in Eureka and throughout Missouri about as well as a high school athlete can," said Neal Blackburn, head coach at Rock Bridge High. "It's hard not to root for her because of the way she carries herself. She lets her running speak for itself and she never demands the spotlight. Instead she just focuses on making herself the best she can be."

Long will begin her junior 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.

Long joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tianna Valentine (2011-12, Hazelwood East High School), Colleen Quigley (2010-11, Nerinx Hall), Tiffani McReynolds (2009-10, The Pembroke Hill School), Emily Sisson (2008-09, Parkway Central), and Alishea Usery (2007-08 & 2006-2007, McCluer South-Berkeley) 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.