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**LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Ashlie Blake of Liberty High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Blake is the first Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Liberty 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 Blake as Nevada'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, Blake 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-9 junior won two individual state championships this spring and led the Patriots to a 13th-place finish as a team. Blake won the shot put with a throw of 49 feet, 7.75 inches and hurled the discus 154-5, winning both events for a second straight year. Blake's personal bests this year in the shot put (51-3.5) and discus (157-0) ranked as the nation's No. 4 and No. 17 performances respectively among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection.

Blake has maintained a weighted 3.36 GPA in the classroom. The manager of the Liberty High football team, she has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and as a peer mentor with her school's Best Buddies Club.

"Ashlie Blake strives to be one of the best track and field athletes in the nation," said Gloria Allgood, head coach of Sunrise Mountain High. "Her athletic talents are exceptional. I know that she will have a great future in the throws in college and at the elite level."

Blake will begin her senior 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.

Blake joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Gabby Williams (2011-12 & 2010-11, Reed High School), Karli Johonnot (2009-10, Centennial), Michaelanne Laurent (2008-09, Coronado), Kayla Sanchez (2007-08, Carson), and Katie Palmer (2006-2007, Boulder City) 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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