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Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

COE-BROWN NORTHWOOD ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Parker of Coe-Brown Northwood Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Parker is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy.

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 Parker as New Hampshire'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, Parker 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 sophomore won two individual state championships this spring and led the Black Bears to the Division II state title as a team. Parker won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:14.73 and the 1600-meter run in 5:12.29. At the Meet of Champions, she won the 800 in 2:10.62 and ran the second leg on Coe-Brown's winning 4x800-meter relay quartet. Parker also won the 800 at the New England Outdoor Championships in a meet-record time of 2:06.42, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection.

Parker has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of her school's student council, she has volunteered locally at the Nottingham Recreation Center and as a mentor at an area school.

"Hannah Parker is quite possibly the most talented athlete that has ever competed in New Hampshire," said Stan Lyford, head coach of Portsmouth High. "We are not talking 'good' with Hannah, we are talking great."

Parker will begin her junior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Parker joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Hillary Holmes (2011-12, Exeter High School), Krista Vincent (2010-11, Somersworth High School), Arianna Vailas (2009-10, Central), Jocelyn Briggs (2008-09, Winnacunnet), Anna Cioffredi (2007-08, Lebanon), and Kelsey Huckins (2006-2007, Keene) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.