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**BEGGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Regan Ward of Beggs High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ward is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Beggs 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 Ward as Oklahoma'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, Ward 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 senior won three individual state titles this spring and led the Golden Demons to the Class 3A championship as a team. Ward won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:19.55, captured the 1600 in 5:12.79 and took the 3200 in 11:13.03. She also won the 1600 at the state Meet of Champions in 5:05.71.

Ward has maintained a 4.28 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally as a Bible class teacher and has participated in service-mission trips to assist impoverished inner-city children.

"Regan has a lot of God-given ability, but she understands that you have to put in the blood, sweat and tears," said Gerard Alexander, Beggs High head coach. "I've been coaching 26 years and there aren't too many kids who are willing to work as hard as she has."

Ward has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field and cross country on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Ward joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Madison Reynolds (2011-12, Douglass High School), Hannah Helker (2010-11, Edmond North High School), Danielle Nowell (2009-10, Plainview), Carissa Levingston (2008-09 & 2007-08Midwest City), and Kylie Spurgeon (2006-2007, Owasso) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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