

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**GRESHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Haley Crouser of Gresham High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Crouser remains the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Gresham 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 Crouser as Oregon'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, Crouser 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 6-foot senior won the Class 6A state championships in the javelin throw and the shot put this spring, launching the javelin 162 feet and hurling the shot 45-10.5. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Crouser holds the U.S. prep record in the javelin and her season-best of 171-11 ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection.

Crouser has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs and environmental conservation efforts.

"Haley fought injuries all year, but she is such a tremendous competitor," said Gresham High head coach Chris Koenig. "She's an incredible athlete, and the sky is the limit for her. She will be missed, and she can't be replaced."

Crouser has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Crouser joins Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kellie Schueler (2009-10, 2008-09, & 2007-08, Summit), and Chrissi Grizzel (2006-2007, Jefferson) 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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