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**SPRING HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Alaysha Johnson of Spring High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Johnson is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Spring 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 Johnson as Texas'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, Johnson 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-3 junior won the 100-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.52 seconds and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 41.24 at the Class 5A state championship meet this spring, leading the Lions to fourth place as a team. Johnson's title-winning time in the 300 hurdles ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection.

Johnson has maintained a 3.24 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Shattered Dreams program, which advocates against teen drinking and driving.

"It's rare to find an athlete with as much heart, fight, love and dedication to the sport as Alaysha," said Kori Crampton, Spring head coach. "Much of our team success has been due to her presence and unwillingness to accept defeat."

Johnson 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.

Johnson joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Shelbi Vaughan (2011-12, Legacy High School), Jennifer Madu (2010-11, Plano East Senior High School), A'Lexus Brannon (2009-10, Ozen Magnet), Chelsey Sveinsson (2008-09, Greenhill School), Donique' Flemings (2007-08, Saginaw) and Erica Alexander (2006-2007, Clear Brook) 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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