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**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Autumn Eastman of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Eastman is the second Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union 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 Eastman as Vermont'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, Eastman 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 two individual state championships at the Division I state meet this spring and led the Redhawks to a second-place finish as a team. Eastman won the 800-meter run with a state-record time of 2:13.06 and the 1500-meter run in 4:40.72, which ranked as the nation's No. 63 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection. Eastman ran the anchor leg for CVU's 4x800-meter relay quartet that won with a state-record time of 9:29.75, and she ran the second leg for the 4x400-meter relay squad that finished third.

Eastman has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with Champlain Valley Union's Athletic Leadership Club to promote positive sportsmanship and was accepted into the MedQuest Health Careers Exploration Program at the University of Vermont this summer to explore her interests in science.

"Autumn managed to set two state records in the heat at states and I've watched her chip away at her school 800 record all season," said Dan Hagan, head coach of Burlington High. "Her sunny attitude is unrelenting and she really emerged as the team's star this year."

Eastman 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.

Eastman joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mollie Gribbin (2011-12 & 2010-11, South Burlington High School), Hannah Rowe (2009-10 & 2008-09, St. Johnsbury Academy), Sarah Sherman (2007-08, Essex), and Lydia Bickford (2006-2007, Peoples Academy) 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.