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**HAR-BER HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ARKANSAS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2014) — In its 29<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 Payton Stumbaugh of Har-Ber High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Stumbaugh is the first Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Har-Ber 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 Stumbaugh as Arkansas'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, Stumbaugh 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-10 senior sprinter, hurdler and jumper won four individual state championships this spring, leading the Wildcats to a third-place finish as a team at the Class 7A state meet. Stumbaugh won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.93 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 24.63, the 100-meter hurdles in 13.92 and the 300-meter hurdles in 43.43. She also won three individual titles at the Meet of Champions, capturing gold in the 100 with a time of 12.04, the 200 in 24.49 and the 100 hurdles in 14.04. The state's two-time returning Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Stumbaugh won the state heptathlon with 5,210 points.

Stumbaugh has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has served as an elected member of her school's student government in addition to volunteering locally as a youth track & field coach.

"Payton Stumbaugh is a champion," said Har-Ber High head coach Brett Unger. "She has risen to every occasion and done exactly what is asked of her. I have never been around an athlete that works harder than she does day in and day out. Her hard work does not stop when she steps off the track. She is committed around the clock."

Stumbaugh has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Oklahoma 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.

Three-time winner Stumbaugh joins Gatorade Arkansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Maggie Montoya (2010 - 11, Rogers High School), Grace Heymsfield (2009-10 & 2008-09, Elkins), Stephanie Foreman (2007-08, Lake Hamilton), and Natasha Shockey (2006-2007, Russellville) 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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