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LONG BEACH POLY HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE CALIFORNIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 19, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Ariana Washington of Long Beach Poly High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Washington is the second Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Long Beach Poly 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 Washington as California'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, Washington 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 won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.22 seconds and the 200-meter dash (22.96) at the state meet this season, leading the Jackrabbits to the championship as a team. A two-time returning Track & Field News All-American, Washington also anchored the winning 4x100-meter relay quartet that broke the tape in 45.19. Her 100 and 200 clockings and the relay time at the state meet all ranked among the nation's top 20 performances in prep history at the time of her selection.

Washington has maintained a 3.08 weighted GPA in the classroom. The recipient of Long Beach Poly's prestigious Pursuit of Excellence Award as the school's top senior student-athlete this spring, she has volunteered locally at a daycare facility, as a peer mathematics tutor and on behalf of the Long Beach International City Marathon.

"Ariana strives for excellence on the track, in the community and most importantly in the classroom," said Long Beach Poly assistant coach Doc Moye. "Her leadership skills on the team at Long Beach Polytechnic have been displayed by her ability to pull her teammates together and create an inclusive atmosphere, where all are valued and respected. Ariana's consistent leadership and genuine concern for her teammates are qualities that make her a stellar example to her peers."

Washington 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.

Washington joins recent Gatorade California Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sasha Wallace (2012-13 & 2011-12, Castro Valley High School), Amy Weissenbach (2010 - 11, Harvard-Westlake School), Ashton Purvis (2009-10, Saint Elizabeth), Anna Jelmini (2008-09, Shafter), Christine Babcock (2007-08, Woodbridge), and Tori Anthony (2006-2007, Castilleja School) 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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