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**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Symone Black of Concordia Lutheran High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Black is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Concordia Lutheran 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 Black as Indiana'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, Black 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 senior won the 300-meter intermediate hurdles with a state-record time of 41.36 seconds and the 100-meter high hurdles in 14.17 seconds at the state championship meet this spring. Black was named Ms. Indiana Track and Field by the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches and her state championship time in the 300 hurdles ranked as the nation's No. 8 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Black has maintained a 3.15 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has raised funds to benefit multiple sclerosis research and breast cancer awareness, and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic as well as community clean-up initiatives.

"Symone is as humble as she is talented," said Concordia Lutheran coach Quinton Dixie. "She's competitive and hard-working, but has a strong sense of balance in her life. She's been a joy to work with."

Black has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Purdue University 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.

Black joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brittany Neeley (2012-13, Eastern High School), Skyler Carpenter (2011-12, Westview High School), Tori Bliss (2010 - 11, Portage High School), Ellie McCardwell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Pendleton Heights), Alex Banfich (2007-08, Culver Academies), and Katie Veith (2006-2007, Homestead) 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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