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**LAKEVILLE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Shaina Burns of Lakeville South High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Burns is the third Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lakeville South 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 Burns as Minnesota'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, Burns 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-11 senior hurdler, jumper and thrower won the heptathlon at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships this spring with 5,163 points, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2014 and No. 34 in U.S. history. A four-year First Team All-State selection, Burns won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.44 seconds and the shot put with a throw of 44 feet, 10.5 inches at the Class AA state meet. She also captured bronze in the 300-meter hurdles (43.80), leading the Cougars to a third-place finish as a team. Her shot put effort of 46 feet, 9.25 inches at the Class AA Section 1 meet ranked as the nation's No. 22 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Burns has maintained a 3.86 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children, Young Life and VOSH International (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity).

"Shaina Burns is arguably the greatest all-around track and field athlete the state of Minnesota has ever seen," said Lakeville South High head coach Andrew Hilliard. "Combining a rare combination of speed, strength, endurance and technical skill, she has the ability to compete at a very high level in a diverse range of track and field events. Just as impressive is her commitment as a teammate and the level to which she has helped lift her teammates to compete."

Burns has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at Texas A&M 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.

Burns joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Maggie Ewen (2012-13 & 2011-12 St. Francis High School), Analisa Huschle (2010 - 11 & 2008-09, Bagley High School), Jessica January (2009-10, Richfield), Kylie Peterson (2007-08, Apple Valley), and Megan Geyen (2006-2007, Watertown-Mayer) 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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