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**STE. GENEVIEVE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Taylor Werner of Ste. Genevieve High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Werner is the first Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Ste. Genevieve 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 Werner as Missouri'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, Werner 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-2 sophomore distance runner won three individual state championships this spring and led the Dragons to a third-place finish as a team at the Class 3 state meet. Werner won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:15.18, the 1600-meter run in state-record 4:44.26 and the 3200-meter run, breaking the tape in 10:19.15. The state's reigning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, her state-record clocking ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Werner has maintained an A average in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, she has served as the secretary of her school's student council and has volunteered locally on behalf of the American Red Cross and the Adopt A Highway Maintenance Corporation. She has also donated her time as an altar server at her church.

"Taylor Werner is a very special athlete," said Scott Grinde, head coach at Warrensburg High. "She is mature beyond her years and is absolutely fearless on the track."

Werner will begin her junior 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.

Werner joins recent Gatorade Missouri Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Hannah Long (2012-13, Eureka High School), Tianna Valentine (2011-12, Hazelwood East High School), Colleen Quigley (2010 - 11, Nerinx Hall), Tiffani McReynolds (2009-10, The Pembroke Hill School), Emily Sisson (2008-09, Parkway Central), Alishea Usery (2007-08 & 2006-07, McCluer South-Berkeley) 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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