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**BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEBRASKA 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 Chloe Akin-Otiko of Bellevue West High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Akin-Otiko is the second Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bellevue West 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 Akin-Otiko as Nebraska'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, Akin-Otiko 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-9 sophomore sprinter and jumper won three individual state championships this spring and led the Thunderbirds to a fourth-place finish as a team at the Class A state meet. Akin-Otiko captured the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.91 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 24.29 and the long jump by soaring 18 feet, 8.5 inches. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, she set a state record in the 100 at the Metropolitan Conference Meet, breaking the tape in 11.74, which ranked as the nation's No. 37 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Akin-Otiko has maintained a 5.25 GPA on a five-point scale in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"Chloe Akin-Otiko is amazing to watch," said Dustin Llewellyn, head coach at Millard South High. "As a coach, you admire that she is able to compete at the highest level and make it look effortless. She is talented but has put in the hard work to continue to be her best. An athlete of her caliber comes around only once in a coach's lifetime."

Akin-Otiko 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.

Two-time winner Akin-Otiko joins Gatorade Nebraska Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Clara Nichols (2011-12, Millard South High School), Aubree Worden (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Scottsbluff High School), Kelli Budd (2008-09, Marian), Emily Sisson (2007-08, Millard North), and Natalie Willer (2006-2007, Elkhorn) 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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