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CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 Tiana Bonds of Centennial High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bonds is the second Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Centennial 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 Bonds as Nevada'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, Bonds 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-6 senior won two individual state championships at the Division I state meet this spring and led the Bulldogs to the state title as a team. Bonds won the 100-meter hurdles in a state-record time of 13.50 seconds which ranked as the nation's No. 7 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection. She also won the 300-meter hurdles, ran the anchor leg on the winning 4x400-meter relay team and placed second in the long jump. At the Great Southwest Classic, Bonds scored 5,258 points in the heptathlon, the No. 2 performance in the nation in 2014, and she won the 300 hurdles in 40.90, which matched the No. 1 clocking in the country.

Bonds has maintained a weighted 4.49 GPA in the classroom. A talented pianist and violinist, she has volunteered locally as a Bible Study leader and as a peer tutor for developmentally challenged students.

"No one has been as dominant as Tiana Bonds this season," said Tyrel Cooper, head coach of Arbor View High. "Besides the hurdles, she ran on two relays and was a solid long jumper as well."

Bonds has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arizona this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Bonds joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ashlie Blake (2012-13 Liberty High School), Gabby Williams (2011-12 & 2010 – 11, Reed High School), Karli Johonnot (2009-10, Centennial), Michaelanne Laurent (2008-09, Coronado), Kayla Sanchez (2007-08, Carson), and Katie Palmer (2006-2007, Boulder City) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.