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**ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 Zola Golden of Arlington High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade New York Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Golden is the first Gatorade New York Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Arlington 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 Golden as New York'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, Golden 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-7 junior won the 400-meter run at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships this spring with a time of 53.22 seconds. Golden captured the Div. 1 state championship in the event with a time of 55.02, and also won the New York Federation 400 title in 54.00. Golden's season-best clocking of 52.82 ranked as the nation's No. 2 time among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Golden has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of Meals on Wheels and youth arts programs.

"Zola is a coach's dream," said Arlington coach Steve Arnett. "Her prodigious talent is exceeded only by her work ethic. She's the complete package athletically, as a teammate and in the classroom."

Golden will begin her senior 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.

Golden joins recent Gatorade New York Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sabrina Southerland (2012-13, Benjamin N. Cardozo High School), Mary Cain (2011-12, Bronxville High School), Aisling Cuffe (2010 - 11, Cornwall Central High School), Melissa Kurzdorfer (2009-10, Lancaster), Shelby Greany (2008-09, Suffern), Charlene Lipsey (2007-08, Hempstead), and Dalilah Muhammad (2006-2007, Cardozo) 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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