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**BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Brittany Brown Otter of Bismarck High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Brown Otter is the first Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bismarck 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 Brown Otter as North Dakota'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, Brown Otter 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-1 senior distance talent won three individual state titles this spring and led the Demons to the Class A state championship as a team. Brown Otter captured the 800-meter run with a time of 2:18.72, the 1600-meter run in 5:03.29 and the 3200-meter run, breaking the tape in 10:53.33. The state's 2012-13 Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, she took silver as the fastest North Dakota competitor in the 1600 at the Howard Wood Dakota relays, crossing the line in 5:04.35.

Brown Otter has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Young Life, the Run For Your Heart foundation and as a youth track and field coach.

"Brittany Brown Otter is a determined, competitive and self-motivated athlete," said Bismarck High head coach Tim Kolsrud. "She is gifted in her ability to compete and she goes about her training like no other athlete. She was committed and goal-oriented to become one of the best runners our school and the state have seen."

Brown Otter will attend the University of Mary where she will compete in track and field as well as cross country 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.

Brown Otter joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Amanda Levin (2012-13 West Fargo High School), Morgan Milbrath (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, Minot High School) and Laura Roesler (2009-10, 2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-2007, Fargo South) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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