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**GRANT HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Ella Donaghu of Grant High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Donaghu is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Grant 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 Donaghu as Oregon'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, Donaghu 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-4 sophomore won the 1500-meter run with a time of 4:31.21 and captured the 3000-meter run in 9:56.79 at the Class 6A state championship meet this spring, leading the Generals to second place as a team. The state's reigning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Donaghu broke the state record in the 3000 with a time of 9:24.86, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Donaghu has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A mentor for younger runners, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and a homeless shelter, and participates in the Friends First Club, which helps integrate special needs students at her school.

"Ella is one of those kids who is very talented, but also has the drive and work ethic to get the most out of that ability," said Grant head coach Jim Tucker. "She has a lot of room for growth and she can still get stronger; her ceiling is unlimited."

Donaghu 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.

Donaghu joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Haley Crouser (2012-13, 2011-12 & , 2010 - 11 Gresham High School), Kellie Schueler (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Summit) and Chrissi Grizzel (2006-2007, Jefferson) 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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