

**Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)**

**SHALER AREA HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Brianna Schwartz of Shaler Area High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schwartz is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Shaler Area 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 Schwartz as Pennsylvania'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, Schwartz 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 1600-meter run with a time of 4:46.95 at the Class AAA state championship meet this spring. Also the state indoor champion in the mile, Schwartz posted season-best outdoor times of 4:45.19 in the 1600 and 10:10.03 in the 3200, both of which ranked among the nation's top ten prep performances in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Schwartz has maintained a 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth running programs and her church's Sunday school.

"Brianna is a fantastic, hard-working, gifted athlete," said Shaler Area head coach David Interthal. "She's been a great teammate and a leader by example for three years. She hasn't lost a final on the track since her freshman season."

Schwartz 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.

Schwartz joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Marshay Ryan (2012-13, Chambersburg Area Senior High School), Angel Piccirillo (2011-12, Homer-Center High School), Leah Nugent (2010-11, Abington Senior High School), Shelley Black (2009-10, Coughlin), Fawn Miller (2008-09, Lakeview), Chanelle Price (2007-08, Easton Area), and Ryann Kraus (2006-2007, Methacton) 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).

###