

Contact: Lauren Rollins (312-729-3607)

**T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Cortney Dowling of T.F. Riggs High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Dowling is the first Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from T.F. Riggs 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 Dowling as South 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, Dowling 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 sprinter won three individual state championships this spring and led the Lady Governors to 3rd place as a team at the Class AA state meet. Dowling captured the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.15 seconds, the 200-meter dash with a meet-record clocking of 24.67 and broke the statewide record in the 400-meter dash in 55.11. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, she also won the 100 (12.22 seconds) and the 200 (24.78) at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays.

Dowling has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished pianist and trumpet player, she has participated in a service-mission trip to Mexico and has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and as a youth track and field coach.

"Cortney Dowling is not just determined, hard-working and competitive, she is also compassionate, humble and encouraging to her teammates and competitors," said T.F. Riggs head coach Greg Starr. "She is an individual of great character."

Dowling 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.

Two-time winner Dowling joins Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kari Heck (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, Washington High School), Jasmyne King (2009-10 , 2008-09 & 2007-08, Rapid City Central), and Leslie Brost (2006-2007, Watertown) 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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