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**NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Desiree Freier of Northwest High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Freier is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Northwest 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 Freier as Texas'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, Freier 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 senior soared 14 feet, 3.25 inches at the Texas Relays to break the national prep record in the pole vault this spring. Freier also won her third straight Class 5A state title with a clearance of 13-6, and finished first at both the New Balance Indoor and New Balance Outdoor Nationals in 2014.

Freier has maintained a 3.54 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Northwest Big Event, throughout which students provide a variety of community services to five area communities.

"Desiree has earned everything she has received, and there's been no one better in the entire nation," said Justin Northwest head coach George Lutkenhaus. "She's an extremely motivated and hard-working athlete."

Freier has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Freier joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Alaysha Johnson (2012-13, Spring High School), Shelbi Vaughan (2011-12, Legacy High School), Jennifer Madu (2010 - 11, Plano East Senior High School), A'Lexus Brannon (2009-10, Ozen Magnet), Chelsey Sveinsson (2008-09, Greenhill School), Donique' Flemings (2007-08, Saginaw), and Erica Alexander (2006-2007, Clear Brook) 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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