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**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Autumn Eastman of Champlain Valley Union High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Eastman is the second Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union 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 Eastman as Vermont'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, Eastman 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 returning Gatorade State Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year and also the 2013-14 Gatorade State Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-3 senior won three individual state championships at the Division I state meet this spring and led the Redhawks to a second-place finish as a team. Eastman won the 800-meter run in 2:20.91, the 1500-meter run with a time of 4:47.24 and the 3000-meter run in 10:23.61. Her season-best time of 9:55.53 in the 3000 ranked as the nation's No. 37 time among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection, and her top time of 4:39.95 in the 1500 ranked No. 64.

Eastman has maintained an unweighted 4.03 GPA in the classroom. A standout skier in addition to her running prowess, she has volunteered locally with Champlain Valley Union's Athletic Leadership Club to promote positive sportsmanship. She also has donated her time to a literacy-outreach program, as a peer tutor and as a youth ski instructor.

"Autumn Eastman has come from JV her sophomore year to unbeatable," said Chip Langmaid, head coach of St. Johnsbury Academy. "She has made much of it happen on her own. She has been a gracious victor and a determined competitor these past three track seasons. No one has come close to beating her."

Eastman has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at Georgetown University 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 Eastman joins Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mollie Gribbin (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, South Burlington High School), Hannah Rowe (2009-10 & 2008-09, St. Johnsbury Academy), Sarah Sherman (2007-08, Essex), and Lydia Bickford (2006-2007, Peoples Academy) 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.