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Contact: Kelly Magnus (312-729-3622)

**SULPHUR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Hannah Jackson of Sulphur High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jackson is the first Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Sulphur 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 Jackson as Louisiana'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, Jackson 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 senior won the 200-meter dash in a state-record 23.73 seconds at the Class 5A state championship meet this spring. Jackson also finished second in the 100 with a time of 11.76. She captured second in both the 100 and 200 at the prestigious Great Southwest Classic.

Jackson has maintained a 4.16 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community and a tutor in her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal shelter, a food bank and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

"Hannah had her goals set and she came in, worked hard and went after them," said Sulphur coach Helen LeFevre. "She was only here one year, but she stepped right in and lifted everyone to another level."

Jackson will attend Harvard University this fall, where she will compete in track and field.

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.

Jackson joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mikiah Brisco (2013-14 & 2012-13, Baton Rouge Magnet High School), Marcquita Stalbert (2011-12, McDonogh 35 College Preparatory High School), Morgann LeLeux (2010-11, Catholic High School), Merritt Van Meter (2009-10, Metairie Park Country Day School), Kim Francis (2008-09, Nortide), and Rachel Laurent (2007-08 & 2006-07, Vandebilt Catholic) 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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