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**MANISTEE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Annie Fuller of Manistee High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Fuller is the first Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Manistee 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 Fuller as Michigan'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, Fuller 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-10 senior won the 800-meter run with a meet-record time of 2:09.61 and the 1600-meter run in 4:57.40 at the Div. 3 state championship meet, leading the Chippewas to a third-place finish as a team. Fuller captured the 800 state title in all four of her varsity seasons, and this season's best efforts of 2:07.40 in the 800 and 4:44.50 in the 1600 each ranked as the nation's No. 13 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection.

Fuller has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. A tutor in her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal shelter, blood donation drives and youth basketball clinics.

"Annie is one of the most tremendously competitive people I've ever been around," said Manistee assistant coach Mike McGuire. "He works hard and she obviously has a lot of ability, but her unwillingness to allow anyone to beat her in anything, even in a workout or practice, sets her apart."

Fuller has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field and cross country on scholarship at Michigan State 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.

Fuller joins recent Gatorade Michigan Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Anna Jefferson (2013-14, Oak Park High School), Hannah Meier (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Grosse Pointe South High School), Megan Goethals (2009-10 & 2008-09, Rochester), Ariel Roberts (2007-08, Pioneer), and Mary Angell (2006-07, Byron Center) 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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