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COE-BROWN NORTHWOOD ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Parker of Coe-Brown Northwood Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Parker is the first Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy.

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 Parker as New Hampshire'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, Parker 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 two-time returning Gatorade State Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-9 senior won the 800-meter race and ran the third leg for the victorious 4x800-meter relay quartet at the Division II state meet this spring and led the Black Bears to a third straight state title as a team. Parker won the 800-meter run in a meet-record time of 2:08.81. Parker's season-best clocking of 2:06.92 in the 800 at the New England Interscholastic Track & Field Outdoor Championships ranked as the nation's No. 9 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection, and was only a half-second shy of her state record of 2:06.42 set in 2013.

Parker has maintained a B average in the classroom. A member of her school's student council, she has volunteered locally at the Nottingham Recreation Center, as an elementary school mentor and as a youth track coach.

"Hannah Parker is not only one of the best from New Hampshire, she's also one of the best in the nation," said John Eastman, head coach of Souhegan High. "Her times in the 800 are phenomenal."

Parker has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Connecticut 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.

Three-time winner Parker joins Gatorade New Hampshire Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Hillary Holmes (2011-12, Exeter High School), Krista Vincent (2010-11, Somersworth High School), Arianna Vailas (2009-10, Central), Jocelyn Briggs (2008-09, Winnacunnet), Anna Cioffredi (2007-08, Lebanon), and Kelsey Huckins (2006-07, Keene) 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.