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**RED RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Ashley Rone of Red River High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Rone is the second Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Red River 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 Rone as North Dakota'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, Rone 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-6 senior sprinter captured two individual state championships this spring and led the Roughriders to a third-place finish as a team at the Class A state meet. Rone won the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.94 and the 400 in 56.65, and earned third-place in the 100 in 12.42. The state's 2015 Class A Girls Senior Athlete of the Year, she also swept all three sprint events at the Class A East Regional championships in May.

Rone has maintained a 4.10 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club, she has volunteered at the Center for Biomedical Research at the University of North Dakota.

"Ashley Rone's work ethic is evident the moment she steps onto the track," said Red River head coach Tracey Heisler. "She leads by example in everything she does. She is kind and caring to others but remains a fierce competitor on the track. She has the will to win."

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

Rone joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brittany Brown Otter (2013-14, Bismarck High School), Amanda Levin (2012-13, West Fargo High School), Morgan Milbrath (2011-12 & 2010-2011, Minot High School), Laura Roesler (2009-10, 2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006-07 Fargo South) 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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