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LAKERIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 Maddie Rabing of Lakeridge High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Rabing is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lakeridge 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 Rabing as Oregon'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, Rabing 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-9 junior won the discus and the shot put at the Class 6A state meet this spring, launching the discus 144 feet and hurling the shot 45 feet, 3 inches. Rabing was unbeaten in both the discus and the shot put, and her season-best effort of 47-10 in the latter ranked as the nation's No. 16 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection.

Rabing has maintained a weighted 4.08 GPA in the classroom. President of her chapter of National Charity League, Inc., Rabing has served as a tutor in her school and has volunteered locally on behalf of clothing drives, youth track programs and the Special Olympics.

"Her results are impressive, but Maddie also has great respect for the process," said Lakeridge coach Scott Spear. "She has set high goals for herself, in all areas of her life."
Rabing will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Rabing joins recent Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ella Donaghu (2013-14, Grant High School), Haley Crouser (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Gresham High School), Kellie Schueler (2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Summit), and Chrissi Grizzel (2006-07, Jefferson) 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.