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**RIO RICO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ARIZONA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 23, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Allie Schadler of Rio Rico High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schadler is the first Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rio Rico 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 Schadler as Arizona'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, Schadler 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 state's reigning Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-5 junior won the 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:49.03 and the 3,200-meter run in 10:16.72 at the Division III state meet this past season, leading the Hawks to second place as a team. Schadler also anchored the winning 4x400-meter and 4x800-meter relay squads that broke the tape in 4:02.19 and 9:43.54, respectively. Her 3,200 and 1,600 clockings at the state meet and her 800-meter time of 2:10.11 at the Stanford Invitational ranked eighth, 35th and 51st among U.S. prep competitors in 2016, respectively, at the time of her selection.

Schadler has maintained a 4.50 weighted GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports programs.

"She is an amazing student-athlete and an amazing person," said Marcos Blanco, head coach at rival Walden Grove High. "She has to be one of the most respectful, down-to-earth people you will ever meet. She is the prime example of what the Gatorade award stands for."

Schadler 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.

Schadler joins recent Gatorade Arizona Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Dani Jones (2014-15, Desert Vista High School), Ky Westbrook (2013-14 & 2012-13, Chandler High School), Jaide Stepter (2011-12, Canyon del Oro High School), Hannah Carson (2010-11, Chandler High School), Jasmine Todd (2009-10, Chandler High School), Jessica Tonn (2008-09, Xavier College Prep.), Hannah Carson (2007-08, Dobson High School), and Natalie Johnson (2006-07, Xavier College Prep) 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.