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**BORAH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Sara Christianson of Borah High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Christianson is the fourth Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Borah 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 Christianson as Idaho'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, Christianson 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-8 senior distance talent captured two individual state titles this spring, leading the Lions to a fourth-place finish as a team at the Class 5A state meet. Christianson set state meet records in both the 1600-meter run, with a time of 4:53.86, and the 3200, breaking the tape in 10:36. She also took second-place in the 800-meter run, crossing the line in 2:16.26. She enjoyed an undefeated regular season in both the 1600 and 3200.

Christianson has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Boise Rotary Club and Alternative Service Breaks, a student-empowerment and service organization.

"Sara Christianson is very dedicated to her success in track and field," said Borah head coach Jeremy Dovel. "She is an inspiring runner who helps others around her be better and her performances motivate others to improve."

Christianson has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Oregon 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.

Christianson joins recent Gatorade Idaho Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Emily Hamlin (2014-15 & 2013-14, Boise High School), Allison Jeffries (2012-13, Eagle High School), Brittany Owens (2011-12 & 2010-11, Borah High School), Allee Cooper (2009-10, Eagle High School), Liz Brandon (2008-09, Eagle High School), and Nicole Nielsen (2007-08 & 2006-07, Borah High School) 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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