

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**BILLINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MONTANA 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 Christina Aragon of Billings Senior High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Aragon is the fourth Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Billings Senior 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 Aragon as Montana'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, Aragon 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-4 senior distance talent won three individual state championships this spring and led the Broncos to a fourth-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Aragon took first in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:05.65, the 1600-meter run in 4:43.51 and the 3200-meter run, breaking the tape in 10:23.31. Her winning time in the 800 established a new state record and ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of her selection. Aragon is a 12-time state champion and capped her prep career with a silver medal in the 800 at this month's Brooks PR Invitational.

Aragon has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and is ranked No. 1 in her graduating class. A member of the National Honor Society and her school's concert band, she has volunteered as a senior student advocate and participated in a service-mission trip to Peru.

"Christina Aragon is arguably the greatest female track and field athlete in the history of the state," said Mike Henneberg, head coach at C.M. Russell High. "She has always handled herself in a classy manner before, during and after competition."

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

Two-time winner Aragon joins Gatorade Montana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Erika McLeod (2013-14, Butte High School), Morgan Sulser (2012-13, Billings Senior High School), Danielle Aragon (2011-12 & 2010-11, Billings Senior High School), Kellee Glaus (2009-10, Whitehall High School), Alexa Aragon (2008-09, Billings Senior High School), Melissa Jenkins (2007-08, Big Sky High School), and Marissa Tschida (2006-07, Loyola Sacred Heart 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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