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**SPANISH SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Jessica Ozoude of Spanish Springs High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ozoude is the first Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Spanish Springs 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 Ozoude as Nevada'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, Ozoude 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-7 junior won three individual state championships at the Division I state meet this past season, leading the Cougars to a fifth-place finish as a team. Ozoude won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.29 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 24.29 and the 400-meter dash in 55.35. Earlier in the season she set state records in the 100 (11.87) and 200 (23.77).

Ozoude has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a youth track and soccer coach in addition to donating her time as part of multiple community-service initiatives through her church youth group.

"Jessica Ozoude ran some fast times against no competition and won three state titles," said Ed Parise, head coach of McQueen High. "Her collection of times is elite."

Ozoude 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.

Ozoude joins recent Gatorade Nevada Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Vashti Cunningham (2014-15, Bishop Gorman High School), Tiana Bonds (2013-14, Centennial High School), Ashlie Blake (2012-13, Liberty High School), Gabby Williams (2011-12 & 2010-11, Reed High School), Karli Johonnot (2009-10, Centennial High School), Michaelanne Laurent (2008-09, Coronado High School), Kayla Sanchez (2007-08, Carson High School), and Katie Palmer (2006-07, Boulder City 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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