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**GRANT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OREGON 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 Ella Donaghu of Grant High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Donaghu is the first Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Grant 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 Donaghu 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, Donaghu 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 won the 800-meter run with a time of 2:11.51 and the 1500-meter run in 4:26.16 at the Class 6A state meet this past season. Also a three-time Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year as well as the Gatorade Oregon Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year as a sophomore, Donaghu holds the state records in the 1500 and the 3000. Her season-best times of 4:14.11 and 9:27.13 in each of those events, respectively, ranked as the nation's No. 4 performances among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of her selection.

Donaghu has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A mentor for younger runners in her area, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and the Friends First Club, which helps integrate special needs students at her school.

"Ella is the best distance runner in the history of Oregon, hands down," said Grant coach Bryant Howard. "She's far too humble to address herself that way, but it's true. No one gets here earlier or stays later, and no one is more diligent. She just does the work to continue to get better."

Donaghu has signed a National Letter of Intent to run 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 Donaghu joins Gatorade Oregon Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Maddie Rabing (2014-15, Lakeridge High School), 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 High School), and Chrissi Grizzel (2006-07, Jefferson 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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