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**GATORADE® NATIONAL GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:
CANDACE HILL**

Standout Surprised with Elite Honor

Conyers, Ga. (June 25, 2015) - In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Candace Hill of Rockdale County High School (Conyers, Ga.) as its 2014-15 Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Hill as the nation's best high school girls track & field athlete. A national advisory panel comprised of sport-specific experts and sports journalists helped select Hill from more than 478,000 high school girls track & field athletes nationwide. Hill is now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade Female High School Athlete of the Year award, to be presented at a special ceremony prior to The ESPY Awards in July.

The 5-foot-8 sophomore became the first high school girl to break the 11-second barrier in the 100-meter dash, clocking a time of 10.98 at last week's Brooks PR meet. The record-setting performance makes her the world's fastest Junior (under 20) in the event and she ranked No. 10 worldwide amongst women of all ages at the time of her selection. Hill, who turned 16 in February, won the 200-meter dash with a state-record time of 23.05 seconds as well as the 100 in a state-record 11.34 at the Class 6A GHSA Track & Field State Championships this spring. Georgia's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Hill also won the Adidas Dream 100, the 200 at the Prefontaine Classic and both the 100 and 200 at the Great Southwest Classic. Hill's season-best times in the 100 and 200 rank as the nation's No. 1 performances among prep competitors in 2015.

Hill has maintained a weighted 4.61 GPA in the classroom. An inductee into the National Society for High School Scholars, Hill is a member of her school's Junior Beta Club and serves as an ambassador on behalf of the Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology. She has also donated her time to a variety of charity drives to help the needy, including the Berean Christian Church clothing drive and the RMSST Food Pantry drive to benefit the Rockdale Emergency Relief Center, in addition to participating in holiday toy drives with multiple philanthropic organizations.

"One year after the prep record (was broken with an 11.10), Candace Hill has pushed the envelope even further," said Doug Binder, Dyestat Editor-in-Chief. "There's been a lot of talk this spring about high school boys who have broken four minutes in the mile—and rightly so—it's an exclusive club (of seven). But the first high school girl to break the 11-second barrier in the 100 meters? That club has only one member, and it's Candace Hill. At 16, her potential is enormous and she is still learning the extent of her prodigious talent. In what is already shaping up to be a historic class of 2017, Hill's achievements put her right at the top."

Hill will begin her junior year of high school this fall.

"Without question, Candace is deserving of recognition as the nation's best high school girls track & field athlete based on her statistics on the track and the impact her accomplishments have had on Rockdale County's success," said Gatorade Chief Marketing Officer Morgan Flatley. "But she is also a shining example to peers and aspiring young athletes of what a leader and a student-athlete should be. She represents everything we hope for in a Gatorade Player of the Year recipient."

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.

Former notable Gatorade National Players of the Year include:

- Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Peyton Manning
- WNBA all-time leading scorer and rebounder Lisa Leslie
- NFL all-time leading rusher Emmitt Smith
- Three-time beach volleyball gold medalist Kerri Walsh
- Four-time track & field gold medalist Allyson Felix

For more information on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of former winners, and future announcement dates, visit the Gatorade Player of the Year Web site at

<http://www.gatorade.com/poy>, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GatoradePOY or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Gatorade.

ALL-TIME GATORADE NATIONAL GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

YEAR	NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	STATUS
2014-15	Candace Hill	Rockdale County, Conyers, GA	High School Sophomore
2013-14	Raven Saunders	Burke, Charleston, SC	S. Illinois Univ. Carbondale
2012-13	Kendell Williams	Kell, Marietta, GA	Univ. of Georgia
2011-12	Shelbi Vaughan	Legacy, Mansfield, TX	Texas A&M
2010-11	Amy Weissenbach	Harvard-Westlake, Studio City, CA	High School Senior
2009-10	Ashton Purvis	St. Elizabeth, Oakland, CA	University of Miami
2008-09	Anna Jelmini	Shafter, Shafter, CA	Arizona State University Grad.
2007-08	Chanelle Price	Easton Area, Easton, PA	University of Tennessee Grad.
2006-07	Emily Pendleton	Woodmore, Elmore, OH	University of Michigan Grad.
2005-06	Bianca Knight	Ridgeland, Ridgeland, MS	USA Track & Field
2004-05	Brittany Daniels	Merrill F. West, Tracy, CA	USC
2003-04	Shalonda Solomon	Long Beach Poly, Englewood, CA	USA Track & Field
2002-03	Allyson Felix	Los Angeles Baptist, North Hills, CA	USA Track & Field/Nike
2001-02	Sanya Richards	St. Thomas Aquinas, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	USA Track & Field/Nike
2000-01	Ychindria Spears	Luling, Luling, TX	Univ. of Texas Grad.
1999-00	Monique Henderson	Samuel FB Morse, San Diego, CA	USA Track & Field/Reebok
1998-99	Stacy Martin	Edgewood, Ellettsville, IN	Auburn Grad.
1997-98	Angela Williams	Chino, Chino, CA	USC Grad.