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**EAST RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kaylin Whitney of East Ridge High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Whitney is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from East Ridge 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 Whitney as Florida'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, Whitney 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 sophomore won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.48 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 23.69 seconds at the Class 4A state championship meet this spring. Whitney also won the adidas Dream 100 with a time of 11.27 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Whitney has maintained a 3.62 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs, and has visited patients in the pediatric ward at Florida Hospital.

"Kaylin has displayed great dedication, commitment and leadership," said East Ridge High head coach Angela House. "What she brings to our school, as well as our track program, is remarkable."

Whitney will begin her junior 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.

Whitney joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kali Davis-White (2012-13, Boyd H. Anderson High School), Shayla Sanders (2011-12, Boyd Anderson High School), Robin Reynolds (2010 - 11, Miami Jackson High School), Kayla Parker (2009-10, Port St. Joe), Ebony Eutsey (2008-09 & 2007-08, Miami Southridge Senior), and Shataya Hendricks (2006-2007, St. Thomas Aquinas) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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