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**HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Chantel Ray of Hampton High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ray is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hampton 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 Ray as Virginia'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, Ray 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-5 senior won two individual state championships at the Group 5A state meet this spring and led the Crabbers to the state title. Ray won the 100-meter hurdles with a state-record time of 13.42 seconds, which ranked as the No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection. She also won the 300-meter hurdles in 43.29, ran the third leg on Hampton's winning 4x100-meter relay quartet and placed third in the high jump with a leap of 5 feet, 4 inches. The state record-holder in the indoor 60-meter dash, she concluded her prep track career with eight state titles.

Ray has maintained a 3.42 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a math tutor, with a literacy-outreach program and as a youth track coach.

"Chantel has never missed a practice, has been eating healthy since ninth grade and sacrifices being a normal high school teenager to be a great athlete," said Marques Hamilton, head coach of Hampton High. "She is a student of the sport and constantly watches film of herself and other great hurdlers."

Ray has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the Ohio State 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.

Ray joins recent Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Felecia Majors (2012-13, South County High School), Megan Moye (2011-12, Cosby High School), Desmonae Gray (2010 - 11, Western Branch High School), Kathleen Stevens (2009-10, Blacksburg), Marlena Wesh (2008-09, Landstown), Natalie Baird (2007-08, Park View), and Catherine White (2006-2007, North 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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