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**THURGOOD MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kendall Sheffield of Thurgood Marshall High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Sheffield is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Thurgood Marshall 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 Sheffield as Texas's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Sheffield joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 6-foot, 185-pound junior won the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.63 seconds and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 36.34 at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Buffaloes to a second-place finish as a team. Sheffield's gold-medal clockings both ranked among the nation's top five prep performances in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Sheffield has maintained a B average in the classroom. Also a football standout and a devoted member of his church community, Sheffield assists local elderly folks with yard work and has volunteered on behalf of a food bank for the needy.

"What I love about him even more than his athleticism is his efficiency," said Thurgood Marshall head coach Lloyd Banks. "He's a stickler about his craft. He wants to be perfect and he has a great attention to detail. He's really a coach's dream."

Sheffield will begin his 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.

Sheffield joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tony Brown (2012-13, Ozen High School), Abraham Hall (2011-12, South Grand Prairie High School), Devin Field (2010 - 11, Lancaster High School), Sheroid Evans (2009-10, Dulles), Marquise Goodwin (2008-09 & 2007-08, Rowlett), and Robert Griffin (2006-2007, Copperas Cove) 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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