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**PONTE VEDRA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 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 Nicole Greene of Ponte Vedra High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Greene is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Ponte Vedra 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 Greene 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, Greene 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 6-foot senior won three individual Class 3A state championships this spring and led the Sharks to a third-place finish as a team. Greene soared 5 feet, 10 inches to win the high jump, leapt 40-2.25 to capture the triple jump and recorded a winning long jump of 20-5, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection. She also swept the high jump at the New Balance Nationals Indoor, the Golden South Classic and the Caribbean Scholastic Invitational and her season-best effort of 6-0 was tied for second-best nationally.

Greene has maintained a 4.30 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Nemours Children's Specialty Care clinic.

"She started with the high jump, then we did some experimental jumping to see how she'd do with the long jump and triple jump," said Ponte Vedra coach Zane Guile. "It went pretty well. She's a special athlete, very driven and very smart. You don't have to do much to motivate her. She's going to do well in whatever she does."

Greene has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Greene joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kaylin Whitney (2013-14, East Ridge High School), 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 (2006-07, 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.

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