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**PIKE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE INDIANA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2015) — In its 30<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 Lynna Irby of Pike High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Irby is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pike 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 Irby as Indiana'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, Irby 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-6 sophomore won three individual state titles this spring, leading the Red Devils to the championship as a team. Irby swept the sprints for a second consecutive season, winning the 100-meter dash with a state-record time of 11.50 seconds, while capturing the 200 in 24.23 and the 400 in 54.73. Her state championship clocking in the 100 ranked as the nation's No. 6 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection.

Irby has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports camps.

"Lynna is just an awesome athlete with great natural talent," said Pike head coach De Dee Nathan. "She's smart too and does everything you ask her to do. They say that Olympians are born, you don't make them, and I think she has that in her, if she stays healthy and has the desire."

Irby 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.

Irby joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Symone Black (2013-14, Concordia Lutheran High School), Brittany Neeley (2012-13, Eastern High School), Skyler Carpenter (2011-12, Westview High School), Tori Bliss (2010-11, Portage High School), Ellie McCardwell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Pendleton Heights), Alex Banfich (2007-08, Culver Academies), and Katie Veith (2006-07, Homestead) 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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