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**MAIZE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Keiryn Swenson of Maize High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Swenson is the first Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Maize 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 Swenson as Kansas'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, Swenson 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-2 senior hurled the javelin a meet-record 162 feet, 5 inches to win the Class 6A state championship this spring, leading the Eagles to a third-place finish as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Swenson finished second at the Kansas Relays and her state-championship winning javelin throw ranked as the nation's No. 4 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection

Swenson has maintained a 4.05 GPA in the classroom. Also a basketball standout and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Students Against Destructive Decisions, she has raised funds for cancer research and volunteered locally on behalf of a youth volleyball program.

"Keiryn is just a one-of-a-kind athlete," said Dana Handy, head coach at Maize High. "She's done a lot of different events and sports over the years and she's good at everything she does."

Swenson has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in basketball and track and field on scholarship at the University of Arkansas 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.

Two-time winner Swenson joins Gatorade Kansas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Alexa Harmon-Thomas (2012-13, Free State High School), Alli Cash (2011-12, Shawnee Mission West High School), Megan Smith (2010-11, Olathe South High School), Kearsten Peoples (2009-10, Ottawa), Heather Bergmann (2008-09, Concordia), and Roxi Grizzle (2007-08 & 2006-07, Tonganoxie) 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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