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**NORTH HARDIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Kianna Gray of North Hardin High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gray is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from North Hardin 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 Gray as Kentucky'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, Gray 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 two-time returning Gatorade State Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-10 senior won four individual state championships at the Class 3A state meet for the season year in a row this spring, leading the Trojans to a runner-up finish as a team. Gray won the 100-meter dash in 11.73 seconds, the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.18, the 400-meter dash in 55.17 and the 100-meter high hurdles in 14.53. The state record-holder in the 100, 200 and 400, she was ranked in the nation's top 80 among prep competitors in 2015 in all three events at the time of her selection.

Gray has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a meet official at elementary school track events.

"Kianna Gray is just unreal," said Mike Horan, head coach of Eastern High. "She is truly a national class athlete. She won the 100-meter dash at state, walked back to the start line and won the 100-meter hurdles in the very next event. Of course, she does that almost every weekend so it just seems normal for her."

Gray has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Kentucky 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.

Three-time winner Gray joins Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Alisha Adair (2011-12, Western Hills High School), Emma Brink (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Sacred Heart Academy), Lutisha Bowen (2007-08, Ballard), and Mary Grace Pellegrini (2006-07, DuPont Manual) 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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