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CAMBRIDGE RINDGE & LATIN SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Brianna Duncan of Cambridge Rindge & Latin School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Duncan is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cambridge Rindge & Latin 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 Duncan as Massachusetts'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, Duncan 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 junior became the first female in Massachusetts history to capture three individual titles at the All-State championships this past season, leading the Falcons to the team title. This past winter's Girls' Indoor Track All-Scholastic Athlete of the Year as named by The Boston Globe, Duncan broke the tape in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.97 seconds, soared 18 feet, 8.75 inches in the long jump and leapt 38-6 in the triple jump. She placed ninth in the long jump at the New Balance Nationals Indoor championships this past winter and also won the long jump title at the 2014 All-State meet as a sophomore.

Duncan has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. In addition to working as an intern at a local rehabilitation center as part of a certified nursing program, she has volunteered extensively on behalf of her church and as a youth athletic instructor.

"She is both a top-class competitor and an athlete who carries herself with class and grace," said John Monz, head coach of rival Weston High. "She is a pleasure to watch and always represents her school in a positive manner."

Duncan will begin her 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.

Duncan joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Karina Shepard (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dracut High School), Carla Forbes (2011-12, Newton North High School), Nadia Eke (2010-11, Holy Name Central Catholic High School), Deanna Latham (2009-10, Triton Regional), Emily Jones (2008-09 & 2007-08, The Bromfield School), and Arantxa King (2006-07, Medford) 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.