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**PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Anna Cockrell of Providence Day School as its 2014-15 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Cockrell is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Providence Day 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 Cockrell as North Carolina'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, Cockrell 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-10 junior won three individual state titles this spring and led the Chargers to the North Carolina Independent Schools Class 3A state championship as a team. Cockrell won the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in a state-record time of 41.31 seconds, while capturing the 100-meter dash in 11.93 and the 100-meter high hurdles in 13.53. She also anchored the 4x400 relay squad to a state title in 4:00.85. Cockrell's season-best performance of 13.21 seconds in the 100 hurdles and her state-meet clocking in the 300 hurdles both ranked in the nation's top five times among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection.

Cockrell has maintained a weighted 4.36 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Alexander Youth Network, which assists children with emotional and behavioral problems.

"Anna is a testament of the synergy between hard work and talent," said Providence Day coach Carol Lawrence. "She's dedicated to learning more about her events and improving in every area. Everyone looks up to her and she is a perfect example of what a student-athlete should be."

Cockrell 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.

Cockrell joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sydnei Murphy (2013-14, Apex High School), Wesley Frazier (2012-13 & 2011-12, Ravenscroft School), Kendra Harrison (2010-11, Clayton High School), Sanura Eley O'Reilly (2009-10, Jack Britt), Aslynn Halvorson (2008-09, Butler), Jacinda Evans (2007-08, Southern), and Gabby Mayo (2006-07, Southeast Raleigh Magnet) 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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