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**NEW ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Karrington Winters of New Albany High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Winters is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from New Albany 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 Winters as Ohio'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, Winters 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 senior won the 400-meter dash with a time of 53.39 seconds at the Division 1 state meet this spring, which ranked as the nation's No. 9 time among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection. Winters also finished third in the 100-meter dash in 11.98. She has won three state titles in the 400 outdoors and two more indoors.

Winters has maintained a 3.40 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Principal's Council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility.

"To see her overcome her injury from last year and come back to form is just amazing," said New Albany coach Otis Winston. "To be a three-time champ in the 400 is an awesome accomplishment, and she has done it with class and humility."

Winters has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Ohio State University 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.

Winters joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Allyson Simmons (2013-14, Fairless High School), Katelyn Daniels (2012-13, Olentangy Orange High School), Alyssa McBride (2011-12, Bryan High School), Kaila Barber (2010-11 & 2009-10, Midpark High School), Stephanie Morgan (2008-09 & 2007-08, Barnesville), and Emily Pendleton (2006-07, Woodmore) 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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