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**VINITA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Carsyn Spurgeon of Vinita High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Spurgeon is the first Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Vinita 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 Spurgeon as Oklahoma'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, Spurgeon 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 the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.32 seconds and anchored three winning relays at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Hornets to the state championship as a team. The Jim Thorpe High School Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Spurgeon led the 4x100 relay to victory in 49.59, while the 4x200 relay won in 1:43.96 and the 4x400 squad broke the tape in 4:03.40.

Spurgeon has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A Sunday school teacher in her church, she has volunteered locally on behalf of blood-donation drives and youth basketball camps.

"Carsyn is just a tremendous track athlete and a versatile runner," said Vinita coach Scott Reed. "She could win numerous individual titles, but she's an unselfish runner who participates in relays to help her team."

Spurgeon 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.

Spurgeon joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Baylor Reese (2013-14, Fairview High School), Regan Ward (2012-13, Beggs High School), Madison Reynolds (2011-12, Douglass High School), Hannah Helker (2010-11, Edmond North High School), Danielle Nowell (2009-10, Plainview), Carissa Levingston (2008-09 & 2007-08, Midwest City), and Kylie Spurgeon (2006-07, Owasso) 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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