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**CONNELLSVILLE AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Madison Wilttrout of Connellsville Area Senior High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wilttrout is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Connellsville Area Senior 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 Wilttrout as Pennsylvania'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, Wilttrout 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 sophomore broke the prep national record in the javelin this spring with a throw of 185 feet, 8 inches, bettering the previous mark by more than four feet. Wilttrout also won the Class AAA state championship in the javelin with a meet-record distance of 182-8. Her top throw ranked No. 1 in the world among women 19-and-under in 2015 at the time of her selection.

Wilttrout has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Samaritan's Purse relief organization as well as community clean-up initiatives.

"I've been doing this a long time, had five state champions, but I've never seen anything like what Madison has done," said Connellsville coach Jeff Galand. "She's physically gifted and her number one interest is being as good as she can be. Her progression has been incredible."

Wilttrout will begin her junior 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.

Wilttrout joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brianna Schwartz (2013-14, Shaler Area High School), Marshay Ryan (2012-13, Chambersburg Area Senior High School), Angel Piccirillo (2011-12, Homer-Center High School), Leah Nugent (2010-11, Abington Senior High School), Shelley Black (2009-10, Coughlin), Fawn Miller (2008-09, Lakeview), Chanelle Price (2007-08, Easton Area), and Ryann Kraiss (2006-07, Methacton) 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.