

Contact: Kelly Magnus (312-729-3622)

**HOPE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND 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 Quashira McIntosh of Hope High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. McIntosh is the first Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hope 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 McIntosh as Rhode Island'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, McIntosh 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 set a state record and three meet records at the State Track & Field Championships and led the Blue Wave to a second-place finish as a team. McIntosh won the 400-meter dash in a state-record 55.44 seconds, the 100-meter dash in 11.82 and the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.32. She also ran the anchor leg for Hope's winning 4x100-meter relay quartet. At the New England Interscholastic Track & Field Outdoor Championships, McIntosh broke her own state record in the 200, placing second in 23.64. She also holds or shares in state indoor records in the 55-meter dash, the 300 and 4x200 relay in addition to owning the outdoor records in the 100, 200 and 400. She concluded her prep track career with 22 state titles.

McIntosh has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen and as a youth tutor, and she has donated her time as a youth track coach.

"If you were to ask Quashira why she started running, without hesitation she would smile and say, 'It was something I was born to do,'" said Thom Spann, Hope High head coach. "This simple response has proven itself true, as 'Q' has demonstrated her gift to run is beyond astonishing."

McIntosh has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Nebraska 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.

McIntosh joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Maddy Berkson (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Classical High School), Aleide Fernandes (2010-11, Central Falls High School), Molly Reilly (2009-10, South Kingstown), Eryn Wheeler (2008-09, Coventry), and Victoria Flowers (2007-08 & 2006-07, Classical) 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.