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**CREEKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Samantha Gonzalez of Creekview High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gonzalez is the first Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Creekview 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 Gonzalez as Texas'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, Gonzalez 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-8 senior won the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in a state-record time of 40.81 seconds at the Class 5A state meet this spring. Gonzalez also finished third in the 100-meter high hurdles in 13.84. Her winning effort in the 300 hurdles ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among high school competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection and rates as 10th in U.S. prep history.

Gonzalez has maintained a 3.57 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's yearbook staff and student newspaper, Gonzalez has volunteered locally on behalf of a children's choir and a Vacation Bible School.

"Following in the footsteps of a state champion hurdler sister would be quite a daunting task for most, but she used her sister Melissa's influence as motivation to become the top hurdler in the nation," said Creekview coach Misti Springfield. "She's shown great drive and commitment to the sport for four years."

Gonzalez has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Miami 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.

Gonzalez joins recent Gatorade Texas Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Desiree Freier (2013-14, Northwest High School), Alaysha Johnson (2012-13, Spring High School), Shelbi Vaughan (2011-12, Legacy High School), Jennifer Madu (2010-11, Plano East Senior High School), A'Lexus Brannon (2009-10, Ozen Magnet), Chelsey Sveinsson (2008-09, Greenhill School), Donique' Flemings (2007-08, Saginaw), and Erica Alexander (2006-07, Clear Brook) 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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