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**SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 17, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Kayla Gilding of South Burlington High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gilding is the fourth Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from South Burlington 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 Gilding as Vermont'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, Gilding 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 four individual state championships at the Division I state meet this spring and led the Rebels to a fifth-place finish as a team. Gilding won the 100-meter dash in 12.91 seconds, the 200-meter dash with a time of 26.31 and the 400-meter run in 58.80. She also captured the long jump title by leaping 18 feet, 3.5 inches. The state record-holder in the 400 and as a member of the 4x200-meter relay squad indoors, she concluded her prep track career with 11 state titles.

Gilding has maintained an unweighted 4.20 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a peer tutor and youth track coach.

"Kayla Gilding has been dominant the whole year," said Bill Eschholz, head coach of Mount Mansfield High. "She was undefeated in the three big Vermont meets [Burlington, Essex and state] and has been a great role model for track athletes across the state."

Gilding will attend Dartmouth College, where she will run with the track team 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.

Gilding joins recent Gatorade Vermont Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Autumn Eastman (2013-14 & 2012-13, Champlain Valley Union High School), Mollie Gribbin (2011-12 & 2010-11, South Burlington High School), Hannah Rowe (2009-10 & 2008-09, St. Johnsbury Academy), Sarah Sherman (2007-08, Essex), and Lydia Bickford (2006-07, Peoples Academy) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).