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**THOMAS DALE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 Titiana Marsh of Thomas Dale High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Marsh is the first Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Thomas Dale 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 Marsh as Virginia'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, Marsh 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-5 freshman won two individual state championships at the Group 6A state meet, and led the Knights to an eighth-place finish as a team. Marsh won the triple jump with a leap of 41 feet, 2 inches, matching her own state record as well as the national freshman record she set during the indoor season. That performance ranked as the nation's No. 7 distance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection. Marsh's season-best long jump of 19-10 ranked No. 10 in the nation.

Marsh has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on a fundraising campaign to benefit leukemia research and as a peer tutor.

"Titiana Marsh is a phenomenal long- and triple-jumper," said Cornell Core, head coach of James River High. "To put up the numbers that she has speaks to how strong of an athlete she is. The one thing that tops it all is that she's only a freshman. She has shown some extreme maturity and composure."

Marsh will begin her sophomore 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.

Marsh joins recent Gatorade Virginia Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Chantel Ray (2013-14, Hampton High School), Felecia Majors (2012-13, South County High School), Megan Moye (2011-12, Cosby High School), Desmonae Gray (2010-11, Western Branch High School), Kathleen Stevens (2009-10, Blacksburg), Marlana Wesh (2008-09, Landstown), Natalie Baird (2007-08, Park View), and Catherine White (2006-07, Northside High School) 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.