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**MOUNTLAKE TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Chinne Okoronkwo of Mountlake Terrace High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Washington Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Okoronkwo is the first Gatorade Washington Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mountlake Terrace 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 Okoronkwo as Washington'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, Okoronkwo 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-7 junior won three individual state titles at the Class 3A state meet and led the Hawks to a fourth-place finish as a team. Okoronkwo set a state record with a leap of 41 feet, 10.25 inches in the triple jump, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 jump among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of her selection. She also won the pole vault with a clearance of 13-3, which ranked No. 11 in the nation, as well as the long jump (18-0).

Okoronkwo has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. The editor of the school yearbook, she has volunteered locally as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church.

"Chinne was a very dominant athlete in her events," said Brandon Christensen, head coach of Shorecrest High. "She was great in the pole vault and triple jump. Her athletic ability is off the charts."

Okoronkwo will begin her senior 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.

Okoronkwo joins recent Gatorade Washington Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Alexa Efraimson (2013-14 & 2012-13, Camas High School), Amy-Eloise Neale (2011-12 & 2010-11, Glacier Peak High School), Maddie Meyers (2009-10, The Northwest School), Andrea Geubelle (2008-09, Curtis Senior), and Courtney Kirkwood (2007-08 & 2006-07, Othello) 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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