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**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 23, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Daija Lampkin of Middletown High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lampkin is the second Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Middletown 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 Lampkin as Delaware'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, Lampkin 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-2 junior won three individual championships at the Division I state meet this past season, leading the Cavaliers to fifth place as a team. The William A. Thomson Award winner as the state's most valuable track athlete as named by the New Castle County Coaches Cross Country and Track Association, Lampkin swept the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.94 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 24.38 and the 400-meter dash in 55.45. Lampkin also anchored the winning 4x200-meter relay squad that broke the tape in 1:41.75. Her 200-meter dash clocking of 23.80 seconds at the New Castle County Track & Field Championships set a state record.

Lampkin has maintained a 4.15 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and a sports medicine assistant to the school's athletic trainer, she has also volunteered locally on behalf of her church and at a food bank.

"I have watched Daija Lampkin win 100-, 200- and 400-meter races by incredible margins all season," said Mike Mooney, head coach at rival Newark High. "I will say that she seemed happiest when anchoring a relay and celebrating with her teammates. We all know what a lift it can give to a team to have a competitor like Daija on your side. She elevated her teammates and the sport in Delaware."

Lampkin 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.

Lampkin joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ashley Bailey (2014-15, Middletown High School), Maiya Dendy (2013-14 & 2012-13, Padua Academy), Haley Pierce (2011-12 2010-11, The Tatnall School), Celina Emerson (2009-10, Delcastle Technical High School), Juliet Bottorff (2008-09, The Tatnall School), Brianna Kennedy (2007-08, Caravel Academy), and Nikko Brady (2006-07, Charter School of Wilmington) 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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