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**PALATKA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE FLORIDA 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 Ka'Tia Seymour of Palatka High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Seymour is the first Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Palatka 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 Seymour as Florida'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, Seymour 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 junior won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.85 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 23.98 seconds at the Class 2A state meet this past season. Seymour also anchored the winning 4x100 relay and won both the 100 and 200 at the Great Southwest Classic. Her season-best time of 11.26 in the 100 ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of her selection. Seymour took silver in this month's adidas Dream 100.

Seymour has maintained a B average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs.

"Ka'Tia is an awesome athlete," said Palatka coach Steven Gonzalez. "She loves to compete and does not back down from a challenge, not even when the boys call her out to race."

Seymour 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.

Seymour joins recent Gatorade Florida Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Nicole Greene (2014-15, Ponte Vedra High School), Kaylin Whitney (2013-14, East Ridge High School), Kali Davis-White (2012-13, Boyd H. Anderson High School), Shayla Sanders (2011-12, Boyd Anderson High School), Robin Reynolds (2010-11, Miami Jackson High School), Kayla Parker (2009-10, Port St. Joe High School), Ebony Eutsey (2008-09 & 2007-08, Miami Southridge Senior High School), and Shataya Hendricks (2006-07, St. Thomas Aquinas 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.

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