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**PIKE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA 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 Lynna Irby of Pike High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Irby is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pike 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 Irby as Indiana'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, Irby 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-6 junior won three individual state titles this spring, leading the Red Devils to second place as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Irby swept the sprints for the third consecutive season, winning the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.50 seconds, while capturing the 200 in 23.53 and the 400 in 53.71. Her state championship time in the 100 ranked as the nation's No. 9 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of her selection. Irby was a silver medalist in the 400 last summer at the IAAF World Youth Championships.

Irby has maintained a 3.74 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth sports camps.

"Lynna is an extraordinary athlete with an exceptional personality," said Pike head coach De Dee Nathan. "She's a team leader and she displays a fearless competitive tenacity."

Irby 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.

Two-time winner Irby joins Gatorade Indiana Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Symone Black (2013-14, Concordia Lutheran High School), Brittany Neeley (2012-13, Eastern High School), Skyler Carpenter (2011-12, Westview High School), Tori Bliss (2010-11, Portage High School), Ellie McCardwell (2009-10 & 2008-09, Pendleton Heights High School), Alex Banfich (2007-08, Culver Academies), and Katie Veith (2006-07, Homestead 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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