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**CHANHASSEN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Jedah Caldwell of Chanhassen High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Caldwell is the first Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Chanhassen 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 Caldwell as Minnesota'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, Caldwell 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 senior sprinter won two individual state championships this spring and led the Storm to a second-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet. Caldwell took gold in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.95 seconds as well as the 200-meter dash, breaking the tape in 23.91 seconds. The 200 clocking established a new state meet record. A First Team All-State selection, she broke a 19-year-old meet record at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays, winning the 200 in 23.59, which ranked as the nation's No. 17 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of her selection.

Caldwell has maintained a 3.31 GPA in the classroom. A senior mentor with her school's Link Crew, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children and as a youth track & field coach.

"I have been incredibly impressed with Jedah Caldwell's willingness and drive to focus on the areas of most needed improvement," said Chanhassen High head coach Chris Schriever. "That's what separates her from the rest. It is always easier to practice what you are good at but Caldwell has always practiced the areas she knew she needed to improve."

Caldwell has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Kansas 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.

Caldwell joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ruby Stauber (2014-15, Wayzata High School), Shaina Burns (2013-14, Lakeville South High School), Maggie Ewen (2012-13 & 2011-12, St. Francis High School), Analisa Huschle (2010-11 & 2008-09, Bagley High School), Jessica January (2009-10, Richfield High School), Kylie Peterson (2007-08, Apple Valley High School), and Megan Geyen (2006-07, Watertown-Mayer 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.