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**PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA 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 Anna Cockrell of Providence Day School as its 2015-16 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Cockrell is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Providence Day 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 Cockrell as North Carolina'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, Cockrell 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-10 senior won four individual state titles this past season and led the Chargers to the North Carolina Independent Schools Class 3A state championship as a team. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Cockrell won the 300-meter intermediate hurdles with a state-record time of 40.42 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of her selection. She also captured the 100-meter high hurdles in 13.52, the 100-meter dash in 11.63 and the 200-meter dash in 23.66. Cockrell finished second in the 400 hurdles, third in the 200-meter dash and fourth in the 100 hurdles at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals.

Cockrell has maintained a 4.44 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented singer, she has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track programs, racial diversity initiatives and Freedom School, which provides summer enrichment for underprivileged children.

"Anna has never settled on her prior year's accomplishments," said Providence Day coach Carol Lawrence. "She comes into each season training with a hunger to be better than she was before."

Cockrell has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Southern California 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 Cockrell joins Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sydnei Murphy (2013-14, Apex High School), Wesley Frazier (2012-13 & 2011-12, Ravenscroft School), Kendra Harrison (2010-11, Clayton High School), Sanura Eley O'Reilly (2009-10, Jack Britt High School), Aslynn Halvorson (2008-09, Butler High School), Jacinda Evans (2007-08, Southern High School), and Gabby Mayo (2006-07, Southeast Raleigh Magnet) 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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