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CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Chanel Brissett of Cheltenham High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Brissett is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cheltenham 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 Brissett as Pennsylvania'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, Brissett 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 broke the state record in the 100-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.19 seconds at the Class AAA state meet this past season, leading the Panthers to the state championship as a team. Brissett also anchored the 4x100 relay quartet to another state record in 45.78. She won a national title in the 100 hurdles at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor in 13.01, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of her selection and makes her the third-fastest prep in U.S. history.

Brissett has maintained a 3.13 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Black Student Union, she has volunteered as a summer counselor on behalf of her church.

"Chanel Brissett stands out because of her desire to succeed," said Cheltenham coach Kelly Jensen. "She possesses the work ethic and determination to excel now and in the future, and her humble confidence affects every team member in a positive manner."

Brissett will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Brissett joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Madison Wiltrout (2014-15, Connellsville Area Senior High School), Brianna Schwartz (2013-14, Shaler Area High School), Marshay Ryan (2012-13, Chambersburg Area Senior High School), Angel Piccirillo (2011-12, Homer-Center High School), Leah Nugent (2010-11, Abington Senior High School), Shelley Black (2009-10, Coughlin High Scool), Fawn Miller (2008-09, Lakeview High Scool), Chanelle Price (2007-08, Easton Area High Scool), and Ryann Krais (2006-07, Methacton High Scool) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.