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**CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE RHODE ISLAND GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 23, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced May Stern of Classical High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Stern is the third Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Classical 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 Stern as Rhode Island'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, Stern 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 senior won three individual state championships at the State Meet this past season, leading the Purple to a fourth-place finish as a team. Stern won the 100-meter dash (12.13 seconds) and the 200-meter dash (24.74) and she crushed the field by nearly four seconds to win the 400-meter dash in 56.28. A nine-time state champion, she holds the state record in the 400 with a personal-best of 54.80, which ranked as the nation's No. 69 time in 2016 among prep competitors at the time of her selection.

Stern has maintained a weighted A average in the classroom. She spent seven weeks last summer working with Save A Child's Heart in Israel, a home for foreign children who require heart surgery but do not have access to the necessary resources in their native countries. She has also volunteered locally at a dog kennel and as a lifeguard.

"May Stern is an exceptional athlete and very versatile," said Erin Newman, head coach of East Greenwich High. "She puts up very impressive times ranging from the 55 to the 400 and beyond."

Stern will attend Brown University, where she will run with the track team beginning 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.

Stern joins recent Gatorade Rhode Island Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Quashira McIntosh (2014-15, Hope High School), Maddy Berkson (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Classical High School), Aleide Fernandes (2010-11, Central Falls High School), Molly Reilly (2009-10, South Kingstown High School), Eryn Wheeler (2008-09, Coventry High School), and Victoria Flowers (2007-08 & 2006-07, Classical 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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