

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**HERRIMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE UTAH 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 Kaysha Love of Herriman High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Love is the second Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Herriman 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 Love as Utah'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, Love 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-8 senior won two individual state championships at the Class 5A state meet this past season, leading the Mustangs to a second-place finish as a team. Love broke the tape in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.13 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 24.46. She also took bronze in the high jump. Love's season-best high jump of 5 feet, 9.25 inches ranked as the nation's No. 11 leap in 2016 among prep competitors at the time of her selection. She also ranked No. 47 in the 100 (11.77 seconds) and No. 93 in the 200 (24.28).

Love has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with TREK, a youth reenactment of the experience of the pioneers who settled the Salt Lake Valley, and as a track coach for special-needs youth.

"Kaysha Love is very talented and has been from her freshmen year on to the present," said Mike Felix, head coach of Westlake High. "Even in the events that she normally doesn't do, she goes in and is always very competitive because of her overall athleticism."

Love has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas 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.

Love joins recent Gatorade Utah Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Lucy Biles (2014-15, Herriman High School), Sarah Feeny (2013-14, Ogden High School), Brenna Porter (2012-13, Sky View High School), Ashleigh Warner (2011-12, Mountain View High School), Lauren Baxter (2010-11, Timpview High School), Kylie Hirschi (2009-10, Brighton High School), Tiffany Hellstrom (2008-09, Bonneville High School), and Natalie Stewart (2007-08 & 2006-07, Spanish Fork 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.