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**JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Mikaela Grant of Jefferson High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Grant is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Jefferson 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 Grant as Wisconsin'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, Grant 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 hurdler and jumper captured a pair of individual state titles this spring, leading the Eagles to a state championship as a team at the Division 2 state meet. Grant won the long jump with a leap of 18 feet, 5.5 inches as well as the 100-meter hurdles, breaking the tape in 14.69 seconds. She also took silver in the 300-meter hurdles, crossing the line in 44.93 seconds. A First Team All-State selection, she won the 400-meter hurdles (1:07.68) and the long jump (19-2.75) at the Senior All-Star Spotlight Meet earlier this month.

Grant has maintained a 3.96 GPA in the classroom. She is the vice president of her graduating class and has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry, a blood-donation drive and as a youth track & field coach.

"Mikaela Grant has dedicated herself to the sport of track & field," said Jim Bauer, head coach at Lakeside High. "I have had several conversations with Mikaela over the years and I can assure you that she is a very humble and respectful young lady. It has been a joy to watch her and compete against her."

Grant has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Central Michigan University 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.

Grant joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Cami Davre (2014-15, Whitefish Bay High School), Kennedy Blahnik (2013-14, 2012-13 & 2011-12, Algoma High School), Dezerea Bryant (2010-11 & 2009-10, Bradley Tech.), Brea Tinney (2008-09, Osceola Fundamental High School), Megan Rennhack (2007-08, Dodgeand High School), and Hannah Gronning (2006-07, Shell Lake 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.

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