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**PAUL DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 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 William Allen of Paul Dunbar High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Allen is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Paul Dunbar 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 Allen as Kentucky's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Allen joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 5-foot-10, 155-pound senior won three individual state titles at the Class AAA state meet this past season, leading the Bulldogs to a second-place finish as a team. Allen set state records in winning the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.42 seconds and the 200 in 21.04. He also won the 400-meter dash (47.39) and ran the anchor leg for Dunbar's winning 4x400-meter relay quartet. Earlier in the spring, Allen set the state record in the 400 with a time of 47.04 seconds. At the time of his selection, his top times in all three events ranked among the nation's top 30 times in 2016 among prep competitors.

Allen has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the March of Dimes and as part of area beautification projects at Keeneland, a horse racetrack in Lexington.

"Will Allen was hands down the most impressive athlete in the state of Kentucky," said James Webb, head coach of North Hardin High. "He was amazing."

Allen has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

Allen joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jaron Brooks (2014-15, Henry Clay High School), Landon Young (2013-14, Lafayette High School), Jacob Thomson (2012-13, Holy Cross High School), Ronnie Baker (2011-12 & 2010-11, Ballard High School), Brandon Bagley (2009-10, John Hardin High School), Cameron Frazier (2008-09, Daviess County High School), Justin Green (2007-08, Louisville Male High School), and Brian Long (2006-07, St. Xavier 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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