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**NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Shyheim Wright of Northwest High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wright is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Northwest 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 Wright as Maryland'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, Wright 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 6-foot-2, 155-pound senior swept the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 13.92 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles in 37.28 at the Class 4A state meet this past season, leading the Jaguars to the state title as a team. A First Team All-Met selection as named by The Washington Post, Wright also anchored the winning 4x100-meter relay squad that broke the tape in 42.30 seconds. He added a silver medal in the long jump with a leap of 22 feet, 6 inches. At the time of his selection, his season-best 110- and 300-meter hurdles clockings both ranked as top-35 times nationally among prep competitors in 2016.

Wright has maintained a 3.26 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth track instructor, he has served as part of a team that helps maintain the school grounds. He has also volunteered locally with underprivileged youth during the holidays and at the YMCA.

"In my opinion, he is the greatest hurdler in Montgomery County history and on the short list of greatest track and field athletes in county and state history," said Seann Pelkey, head coach at rival Quince Orchard High. "Shyheim was willing to do whatever it took to make his team better. His influence on his teammates was noticeable, as his standard of excellence applied to his whole team. Not to sound cliché, but as an opposing coach, I'm happy to see him go. But as a fan of track and field, I will miss watching him compete. On a great team, he stood out."

Wright has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the University of Pittsburgh 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.

Wright joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Maxwell Willis (2014-15, Bowie High School), Robert Carter (2013-14, Long Reach High School), Julian Woods (2012-13, Century High School), Dondre Echols (2011-12, Potomac High School), Ronald Darby (2010-11, Potomac High School), Marquis Woodyard (2009-10 & 2008-09, Governor Thomas Johnson High School), Jon Hill (2007-08, Walkersville High School), and Matthew Centrowitz (2006-07, Broadneck 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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