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**HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH CAROLINA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 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 Marcus Krahn of Hillside High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Krahn is the second Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hillside 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 Krahn as North Carolina'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, Krahn 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, 160-pound senior captured three individual titles at the Class 4A state meet this past season, leading the Hornets to the state championship as a team. Krahn won the 110-meter high hurdles in a state-record time of 13.32 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of his selection and placed him fifth in U.S. high school history. He also soared 23-feet to win the long jump at the state meet and 48-8 to take the triple jump, a leap which ranked No. 39 in the nation. Krahn captured a national championship in the 110 hurdles with a time of 13.39 at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor.

Krahn has maintained a weighted 4.63 GPA in the classroom. He is co-founder of a peer-tutoring program at his school.

"Marcus has high expectations for himself and works hard to achieve his goals," said Hillside coach Rob Clodfelter. "He puts in the extra time at the track and in the classroom to stay on top. He's a model young man."

Krahn has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of North Carolina 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.

Krahn joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Keon Howe (2014-15, Mallard Creek High School), Trentavis Friday (2013-14, Cherryville High School), John Crossley (2012-13, West Carteret High School), Craig Engels (2011-12, Ronald Reagan High School), Eric Winfrey (2010-11, Douglas Byrd High School), Isaac Presson (2009-10, Asheville High School), Wayne Davis (2008-09, Southeast Raleigh High School), Dylan Ferris (2007-08, East Forsyth High School), and Johnny Dutch (2006-07, Clayton 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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