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**WEST ASHLEY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH 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 Darrell Singleton of West Ashley High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Singleton is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from West Ashley 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 Singleton as South 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, Singleton 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-11, 165-pound senior won two individual state titles at the Class AAAA state meet this past season, leading the Wildcats to a fourth-place finish as a team. Singleton took first in the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash and ran the anchor leg on West Ashley's second-place 4x100-meter relay quartet. His top time in the 100 of 10.48 seconds ranked as the nation's No. 16 time in 2016 among prep competitors at the time of his selection. His best 200 time of 21.15 was No. 18 nationally.

Singleton has maintained a 3.51 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with an elementary school literacy-outreach program and as a youth basketball and track coach.

"Darrell Singleton was a very, very good sprinter this season," said Corey Wright, head coach of Dutch Fork High. "It looked as though his entire offseason focus was to prepare himself to be the top sprinter in the state."

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

Singleton joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tavien Feaster (2014-15, Spartanburg High School), Jaylen Bacon (2013-14, Lower Richland High School), Griffie Loy (2012-13, Bishop England High School), Brandon Sanders (2011-12, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Dreher High School), Chris Brown (2010-11, Hanahan High School), Marcus Rowland (2007-08, Dorman High School), and Chad Phillips (2006-07, Greenwood 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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