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**NEWTON SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE
YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32nd year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced **Clare Martin of Newton South High School** as its **2016-17 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**. Martin is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Newton South 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 Martin as Massachusetts' 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, Martin joins an elite alumni association of state track & field award-winners, including Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt High School, Iowa), Allyson Felix (2002-03, Los Angeles Baptist High School, Calif.), Robert Griffin III (2006-07, Copperas Cove High School, Texas), Grant Fisher (2013-14 & 2014-15, Grand Blanc High School, Mich.) and Candace Hill (2014-15, Rockdale County High School, Ga.).

The 5-foot-4 senior won the 800-meter run and the mile run at the state meet this past season, leading the Lions to a fourth-place finish as a team. Martin's winning mile time of 4:48.88 ranked as the nation's No. 18 clocking among prep competitors this spring at the time of her selection. She set a state record in the 2-kilometer steeplechase, which ranked No. 2 in the nation, and she ranked amongst the top 20 in both the 2-mile run (No. 10) and the 800 (No. 18).

A senior editor of her school paper and also a peer science tutor at Newton South, Martin has volunteered locally with the Elder Buddies Club at the Newton Senior Center as well as on behalf of the Newton Food Pantry. "Clare Martin is superb, and her performances this year are what happens when one of the most talented athletes also happens to be one of the hardest-working," said John Byrnes, head coach of Tewksbury High. "And it wasn't just one or two great meets at the end of the year—she was the state's dominant distance runner all season."

Martin has maintained a 4.73 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will attend Princeton University, where she will compete in cross country and track, 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 Player of the Year Selection Committee, 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.

Martin joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Margie Cullen (2015-16, Needham High School), Brianna Duncan (2014-15, Cambridge Rindge & Latin School), Karina Shepard (2013-14 & 2012-13, Dracut High School), Carla Forbes (2011-12, Newton North High School), Nadia Eke (2010-11, Holy Name Central Catholic High School), Deanna Latham (2009-10, Triton Regional High School), Emily Jones (2008-09 & 2007-08, The Bromfield School), and Arantxa King (2006-07, Medford High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Clare will be able to select a national or local youth sports organization to receive a grant as part of the Gatorade Play It Forward program. Every Gatorade Player of the Year state winner receives a \$1,000 grant to donate and will have the opportunity to enter for an additional \$10,000 spotlight grant by writing a brief essay explaining why their selected organization deserves additional support. 12 spotlight grants – one for each sport – will be announced throughout the year.

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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