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**LEXINGTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED  
GATORADE KENTUCKY GIRLS TRACK & FIELD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 22, 2017) — In its 32<sup>nd</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, today announced Michaela Reinhart of Lexington Catholic High School as its 2016-17 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Reinhart is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Lexington Catholic 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 Reinhart as Kentucky's 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, Reinhart 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-3 senior won the 1,600-meter run and the 3,200-meter run at the Class 2A state meet this past season, leading the Knights to a 10<sup>th</sup>-place finish as a team. Reinhart's time of 10:35.36 in the 3200 beat her next-closest competitor by 51.24 seconds, and she was first across all classifications by 24.87 seconds. Her 3200 time of 10:17.71 at the Arcadia Invitational in April is a state record and ranked as the nation's No. 16 performance among prep competitors this spring at the time of her selection. She is also ranked in the top 50 nationally in the mile (4:55.37).

The president of the Lexington Catholic High student council, Reinhart has volunteered locally as a youth track and field coach. "The past two years, Michaela has dominated the high school level, especially on the 2A level," said Kevin Hall, head coach of Franklin County High. "She was in a league of her own. She is a standout on the track."

Reinhart has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom and graduated as her school's valedictorian. She has signed a national letter of intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Duke University 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.

Reinhart joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Lily Lowe (2015-16, Calloway County High School), Kianna Gray (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, North Hardin High School), Alisha Adair (2011-12, Western Hills High School), Emma Brink (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Sacred Heart Academy), Lutisha Bowen (2007-08, Ballard High School), and Mary Grace Pellegrini (2006-07, DuPont Manual High School) among the state's list of former award winners.

As a Gatorade Player of the Year, Michaela 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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