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**HUNTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2013) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Grant Hill of Huntsville High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hill is the first Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Huntsville 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 Hill as Alabama'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, Hill 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-6, 300-pound senior won the discus with a throw of 176 feet, 1 inch and the shot put with a mark of 54-3.75 at the Class 6A state championship meet this spring, leading the Panthers to a fifth-place finish as a team. Hill's season-best discus throw of 203-7 ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection.

Hill has maintained a 3.23 GPA in the classroom. Also a football standout, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen and youth sports programs.

"Grant is a big, strong kid who is super-intelligent and works hard," said Huntsville head coach Terrance Young. "He's really studied the technique for the discus and the shot, and he's performed at a very high level."

Hill has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in football and track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Alabama 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.

Hill joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Joseph Williams (2011-12 & 2010-11, Spain Park High School), Keenan Brock (2009-10, Carver), Patrick McGregor (2008-09, Hoover), Kyle Smith (2007-08, Daphne), and Julio Jones (2006-2007, Foley) 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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