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**NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 Khalfani Muhammad of Notre Dame High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Muhammad is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Notre Dame 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 Muhammad as California'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, Muhammad 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-9 senior sprinter won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.33 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 20.84 at the state meet this season, leading the Knights to second place as a team. The state's returning Athlete of the Year as named by Cal-Hi Sports, Muhammad also anchored the third-place 4x100-meter relay squad that finished in 41.01. His 200-meter dash time of 20.73 at the Southern Section Masters and his 100-meter dash time at the state meet, respectively, ranked No. 3 and No. 4 among U.S. prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection. The 4x100-meter relay quartet's state meet effort ranked No. 17 nationally. Muhammad also swept the 100 and 200 in addition to anchoring the winning 4x100 relay as a junior at the 2012 state meet.

Also a football standout, Muhammad has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to donating his time each of the past two summers as a counselor at the Notre Dame Sports Camp, he has volunteered locally feeding the homeless.

"He is very hard working and extremely competitive, as you can see in his times and how he always mentions 'getting better,'" said Mike Wellington, head coach of rival Bishop Alemany High. "He is a humble guy and always greets the other coaches in our powerful Mission League, though we are competitors—not to mention he defended his state titles in the 100 and 200."

Muhammad has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of California at Berkeley 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.

Muhammad joins recent Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Darren Fahy (2011-12, La Costa Canyon High School), Remontay McClain (2010-11, Covina High School), Sean Krinik (2009-10, Valencia), Mac Fleet (2008-09, University City), German Fernandez (2007-08, Riverbank), and Bryshon Nellum (2006-2007, Long Beach Polytechnic) 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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