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**STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Henry Wynne of Staples High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wynne is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Staples 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 Wynne as Connecticut'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, Wynne 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 2012-13 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Wynne won the 800-meter run with a meet-record time of 1:50.63 and the 1600-meter run in 4:13.82 at the State Open Championship this season, leading the Wreckers to second place as a team. The 6-foot-3 senior also swept the 800 in 1:53.52 and 1600 in 4:18.78 at the Class S championships. Wynne captured the mile run in 4:07.84 at New Balance Nationals Outdoor. His second-place mile time of 4:05.04 at the adidas Grand Prix and winning 800 time of 1:49.93 at the New England championships, respectively, ranked No. 4 and No. 5 among U.S. prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection. He also swept the 800 and 1600 as a junior at the 2012 State Open.

Wynne has maintained a 3.20 GPA in the classroom. A student ambassador in his school, he has volunteered locally on behalf of community road races.

"Henry Wynne is a star and a champion," said Bryan Kovalsky, head coach of rival Ridgefield High. "For me as a coach, it has quickly become less about trying to find a way to beat him and more about enjoying the show and hoping that my own athletes are inspired by him. Athletically, Wynne has unbelievable range. He is probably the best runner in the state in everything from the 400 to 5,000. A lot of Olympians have this quality."

Wynne has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field and cross country on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia 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.

Wynne joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jake Scinto (2011-12, Cheshire High School), John Wlasuk (2010-11, Newtown High School), Chris FitzSimons (2009-10, Hamden), Cas Loxsom (2008-09, Wilbur Cross), Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury), and Terrell Wilks (2006-2007, Hillhouse) 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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