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**DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Michael Smith of Dunbar High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Smith is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Dunbar 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 Smith as District of Columbia'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, Smith 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-11 senior sprinter and hurdler won four individual District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association city championships this spring, leading the Crimson Tides to a first-place finish as a team at the DCIAA city meet. Smith won the 400-meter run with a time of 49.77 seconds, the 110-meter hurdles in 14.80, the 300-meter hurdles in 40.86 and the triple jump with a leap of 40 feet, eleven inches. A 2013 Washington Post All-Met Honorable Mention selection, he also won the 400 with a time of 51.34, the 110 hurdles in 15.17 and anchored the 4x400-meter relay quartet that broke the tape in 3:32.45 at the DCIAA East/West championships.

Smith has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter and as a youth track and field coach.

"Michael Smith has been a dedicated and hard-working track and field athlete," said Dunbar head coach Kurt Bembridge. "He has displayed an incredible work ethic and a commitment to constantly make himself better."

Smith will attend Southern University, where he will compete in track and field 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.

Smith joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mike Crozier (2011-12, Gonzaga College High School), Collin Leibold (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Imani Kelly (2009-10, Theodore Roosevelt), Seck Barry (2008-09 & 2007-08, St. Albans School), and Bernell Hailey (2006-2007, Coolidge) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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