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**CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Kyle Landon of Chester High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Illinois Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Landon is the first Gatorade Illinois Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Chester 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 Landon as Illinois'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, Landon 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-5, 170-pound senior captured the high jump with a clearance of 6 feet, 10 inches and the long jump with a leap of 22-1.75 at the Class 1A state meet this spring. Landon's season-best high jump of 7-2 ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection.

Landon has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry and youth basketball programs.

"A great athlete has talent, but a champion has a great competitive drive, and Kyle is a competitor," said Chester High head coach Steve Spears. "He wants to win at everything he does—he wants to get the highest score on the test, he wants to win the Ping-pong match. I've seen him clear 7-3 and I know he can go higher. He's got a chance to make the Olympic trials some day."

Landon has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at Southern Illinois University 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.

Landon joins recent Gatorade Illinois Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Carl Heinz (2011-12, Oak Park River Forest High School), Zach Ziemek (2010-11, Lake Park High School), Logan Pflibsen (2009-10, Streator Township), Dan Block (2008-09, Lake Park), Mat Smoody (2007-08, Palatine), and Evan Jager (2006-2007, Jacobs) 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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