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**LINN-MAR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Josh Evans of Linn-Mar High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Evans is the second Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Linn-Mar 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 Evans as Iowa'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, Evans 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-8, 150-pound junior distance runner won the 3200-meter run with a time of 9:13.34 seconds and anchored the 1600-meter sprint medley relay quartet that broke the tape in 3:29.94 this spring, leading the Lions to the Class 4A state championship as a team. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, Evans broke a 24-year old meet record in the 1600 at the Drake Relays with a time of 4:10.86.

Evans has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf Students Opposed to Drugs and Alcohol (S.O.D.A.) and in association with multiple community service initiatives on behalf of his church youth group.

"Josh Evans is a humble champion and has a good rapport with his fellow competitors," said Brian Martz, head coach at Iowa City West High. "He is a fine representative of track and field in Iowa and he always demonstrates great sportsmanship, win or lose."

Evans will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Evans joins recent Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Conner Smock (2011-12, Lisbon High School), Kevin Lewis (2010-11, Ottumwa High School), Kyle Dunn (2009-10, Linn-Mar), Omet Kak (2008-09, North), Jarred Herring (2007-08, Burlington), and Matt Banse (2006-2007, Starmont) 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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