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**OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE KANSAS 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 Kord Ferguson of Ottawa High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ferguson is the first Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Ottawa 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 Ferguson as Kansas'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, Ferguson 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-6, 220-pound junior won the Class 4A state titles in the discus and the shot put this spring, throwing the discus 187 feet, 4 inches, and hurling the shot put 61-6.75 to lead the Cyclones to a third-place finish as a team. Ferguson's season-best efforts of 63-6 in the shot put and 199-1 in the discus each ranked as the nation's No. 9 performances among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection.

Ferguson has maintained a 3.27 GPA in the classroom. Also a football standout, he has volunteered locally mowing lawns and shoveling snow for the elderly, and assisting with youth sports programs.

"Kord has become a leader for our track team," said Ottawa head coach Mark Laws. "He leads by example with his positive approach to the sport and the way he works hard to attain his goals."

Ferguson 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.

Ferguson joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jonny Giess (2011-12, Blue Valley Northwest High School), Macauley Garton (2010-11, Mill Valley High School), Johannes Swanepoel (2009-10, Shawnee Mission South), Adonis Saunders (2008-09, Olathe North), John Talbert (2007-08, Kansas City East Christian Academy), and Iain Trimble (2006-2007, Shawnee Heights) 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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