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HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Jacob Thomson of Holy Cross High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Thomson is the second Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Holy Cross 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 Thomson as Kentucky'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, Thomson 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-10, 150-pound senior won two individual state championships at the Class 1A state meet this spring and led the Cougars to an 11th-place finish as a team. Thomson won the 3200-meter run in 9:07.17 and the 1600-meter run in 4:09.99, the latter of which ranked as the No. 25 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection. The 2013 Kentucky Track & Cross Country Coaches Association Mr. Track winner, he also ranked in the top 10 nationally in the mile, the 3000 and the 3200 this spring.

Thomson has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his school. For his senior class project he built a ramp at the home of a fellow Holy Cross student who is confined to a wheelchair.

"We went into the state meet thinking that second would be a victory because Jacob Thomson was uncatchable," said Joe Cordonnier, head coach of Villa Madonna Academy. "For the past 13 years, I've seen and coached some great runners. Mr. Thomson is simply on another level. He is a marvel to watch."

Thomson has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at N.C. State 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.

Thomson joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ronnie Baker (2011-12 & 2010-11, Ballard High School), Brandon Bagley (2009-10, John Hardin), Cameron Frazier (2008-09, Daviess County), Justin Green (2007-08, Louisville Male), and Brian Long (2006-2007, St. Xavier) 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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