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Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**DEERING HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MAINE 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 Jared Bell of Deering High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Maine Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Bell is the second Gatorade Maine Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Deering 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 Bell as Maine'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, Bell 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-1 junior won the javelin with a meet-record throw of 176 feet, seven inches and the shot put with a toss of 57-2.25 at the Class A state meet this season. This past winter's All-State Indoor Track Performer of the Year as named by the Maine Sunday Telegram, Bell also placed third in the javelin with a throw of 164-0. His shot put of 58-10 at the New England championships and discus throw of 177-0 at the Cumberland County Championships each ranked among the top 100 performances among U.S. prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection.

Also a published poet, Bell has maintained an A average in the classroom and has served as a member of his school's student government. In addition to donating his time as a youth shot put instructor, he has volunteered locally as part of a blood-donation drive and Mary's Walk to benefit the Maine Cancer Foundation.

"Jared Bell is the real deal," said Steve Virgilio, head coach of rival Cheverus High. "He possesses athletic excellence, intelligence and exemplary character. Bell was hands down the top thrower in Maine this year. As the 2013 state indoor and outdoor shot put and discus champion, he went undefeated in Maine competition. He was not only the best thrower in Maine, but he solidified his spot as one of the best Maine high school throwers of all-time."

Bell will attend Princeton University this fall, where he will compete in track and field.

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.

Bell joins recent Gatorade Maine Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Matthew McClintock (2011-12, Madison Area Memorial High School), Jack Terwilliger (2010-11, Cheverus High School), Will Geoghegan (2009-10, Brunswick), Dan Smith (2008-09, Thornton Academy), and David Slovenski (2007-08 & 2006-07, Brunswick) 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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