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**PILLAGER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MINNESOTA 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 Matt Neururer of Pillager High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Neururer is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pillager 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 Neururer as Minnesota'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, Neururer 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-2 senior distance runner and jumper won two individual state championships this spring and led the Huskies to a ninth-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet. Neururer won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:56.52 and the high jump with a clearance of six feet, six inches. A three-time First Team All-State selection, he also won three events at the Minnesota State High School League subsection championships, capturing gold in the 800 with a time of 2:08.95, the 1600-meter run in 4:34.28 and the high jump, soaring six feet, seven inches.

Neururer has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. A talented artist and sculptor, he has volunteered locally as a youth track and field coach.

"The range of Matt Neururer is a special thing I have not seen in my 22 years of coaching," said Pillager High head coach Terry Hollingsworth. "To be a trained distance runner and be able to do the high jump at this level is pretty amazing. He is also very down to earth and competes with the highest level of sportsmanship."

Neururer has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at North Dakota 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.

Neururer joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Rilwan Alowonle (2011-12, Park High School), Mason Ferlic (2010-11, Mounds Park Academy), Macauley Spandl (2009-10, Moorhead), Casey Dehn (2008-09, Owatonna), Zach Mellon (2007-08, Buffalo), and Jerrell Hancock (2006-2007, Anoka) 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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