

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**JOHN BURROUGHS HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 Ezekiel Elliott of John Burroughs High School School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Elliott is the first Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from John Burroughs High School 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 Elliott as Missouri'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, Elliott 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, 210-pound senior sprinter and hurdler won four individual state championships this spring and led the Bombers to a second-place finish as a team at the Class 3 state meet. Elliott won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.03 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 22.25, the 110-meter hurdles in 13.87 and the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 39.01. A three-time First Team All-State selection, his winning time of 13.77 in the 110 hurdles at the Class 3 District 2 tournament is ranked as the nation's No. 9 mark by a prep competitor in 2013 at the time of his selection.

Elliott has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as a summer camp counselor and as a youth football and track and field coach.

"I have been going to the Missouri state meet since 1976 and Elliott is one of those kids who is just different than most high school boys," said Ted Graves, head coach at Liberty North. "He has such a forceful snap with his lead leg and he truly achieves the hurdler's mantra of sprinting over the hurdles."

Elliott has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on an athletic scholarship at Ohio 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.

Elliott joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Dapo Akinmoladun (2011-12, Grandview High School), Daniel Everett (2010-11, Westminster Christian Academy), Dorial Green (2009-10, Hillcrest), Nick Happe (2008-09, Francis Howell North), and Maurice Mitchell (2007-08 & 2006-07, Raytown South) 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.

###