

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**NASHUA NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Zak Jenkins of Nashua North High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jenkins is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Nashua North 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 Jenkins as New Hampshire'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, Jenkins 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-9, 150-pound sophomore won two individual state championships at the Division I state meet this spring and led the Titans to the state title. Jenkins won the 100-meter dash in 10.99 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 22.54 and ran the anchor leg for Nashua North's winning 4x100-meter relay quartet as well as for the runner-up 4x200-meter relay squad. Jenkins also won the 100 and the 200 at the Meet of Champions and capped his spring with a victory in the 200 at the New England Outdoor Championships.

Jenkins has maintained a weighted 3.38 GPA in the classroom. A trumpet player in the school band, he has volunteered locally as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with his church youth group.

"Zak is athletically gifted," said Jason Paling, head coach of Nashua South High. "If he can run a sub-11 second 100 now, whoa, he's going to be so good as a junior and a senior. I think Zak has real potential to do great things in New Hampshire and set all kinds of records."

Jenkins will begin his junior 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.

Jenkins joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Romario Bailey (2011-12, Stevens High School), D'Mahl McFadden (2010-11, Merrimack Valley High School), Dominic Filiano (2009-10, Lebanon), Mike Marshall (2008-09, Salem), Matt Paulson (2007-08, Central), and Gabe Dano (2006-2007, Merrimack) 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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