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**CONNETQUOT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW YORK 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 J.J. Stallworth of Connetquot High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New York Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Stallworth is the first Gatorade New York Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Connetquot 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 Stallworth as New York'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, Stallworth 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, 170-pound senior won the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.96 seconds at the New York state championship meet this spring. Stallworth holds eight school records and finished 8th in the 110 hurdles at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals. His state championship time ranked as the nation's No. 18 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection.

Stallworth has maintained an A average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church youth group, he has volunteered locally assisting the elderly and tutoring peers.

"He's an exceptional talent with tremendous dedication and an outstanding work ethic," said Connetquot coach Matt Frenz. "He's truly one of a kind."

Stallworth has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Rhode Island 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.

Stallworth joins recent Gatorade New York Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Nick Ryan (2011-12, Fayetteville-Manlius High School), Chad Noelle (2010-11, Greene Central High School), Mike Quercia (2009-10, Marcellus Senior), Will Cole (2008-09, Hamburg), Kyle Merber (2007-08, Half Hollow Hills West), and Walter Henning (2006-2007, St. Anthony's) 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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