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**BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Jake Leingang of Bismarck High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Leingang is the fifth Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bismarck 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 Leingang as North Dakota'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, Leingang 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-7, 130-pound senior distance runner won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:57.25, the 1600-meter run in 4:13.69 and the 3200-meter run in 9:24.48 this spring, leading the Demons to their 10th straight Class A state championship as a team. A three-time Gatorade North Dakota Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Leingang is an 11-time individual state champion and set a state record in the 1600 with a time of 4:05.63 at the Class A West Regionals, which ranked as the nation's No. 9 clocking by a prep competitor in 2013 at the time of his selection.

Leingang has maintained a 3.58 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a soup kitchen and retirement home and on behalf of multiple community service initiatives in association with this church youth group.

"Jake Leingang has been an unbelievable role model and leader for our track and field team," said Bismarck High head coach Dave Zittleman. "His work ethic and dedication to the sport are off the charts."

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

Leingang joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Drew Wiseman (2011-12, Century High School), Brock Larson (2010-11, Fargo South High School), Brandon Barnes (2009-10, Bismarck), Ryan Todhunter (2008-09, Red River), Jason Duchsherer (2007-08, Bismarck), and Weston Leutz (2006-2007, Century) 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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