

**Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)**

**BISHOP ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE SOUTH CAROLINA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Griffie Loy of Bishop England High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Loy is the first Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bishop England 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 Loy as South Carolina'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, Loy 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-11, 220-pound senior won two individual state championships at the Class AA state meet this spring and led the Battling Bishops to a second-place finish as a team. Loy won the shot put with a throw of 57 feet, 1 inch and the discus with a state-record toss of 196-6, the latter of which ranked as the No. 9 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection. Loy's top effort in the shot put of 60-11.5 ranked No. 31 nationally this spring.

Loy has maintained a weighted 4.35 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally at a retirement home and as a youth football coach.

"Griffie is a great young man and made himself into the thrower he is," said David Pratt, head coach of Hanrahan High. "He is not very tall but is very committed to the weight room. He is very powerful and has great technique. He just got dedicated and loves the sport."

Loy will attend the United States Naval Academy, where he will compete with the track and field team beginning 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.

Loy joins recent Gatorade South Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brandon Sanders (2011-12, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Dreher High School), Chris Brown (2010-11, Hanahan High School), Marcus Rowland (2007-08, Dorman), and Chad Phillips (2006-2007, Greenwood) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

###