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**OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE TENNESSEE 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 Brock Baker of Oakland High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Baker is the first Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Oakland 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 Baker as Tennessee'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, Baker 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 state's returning Gatorade Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Baker won three individual state championships at the Class AAA state meet and led the Patriots to a second-place finish as a team. The 6-foot, 148-pound senior won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:54.36, the 1600-meter run in 4:18.58 and the 3200 in 9:01.99. Baker's season-best time of 8:51.75 in the 3200 ranked as the No. 10 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection. He also ranked in the top 10 nationally in the mile (4:06.77) and the 3000 (8:20.71) this spring.

Baker has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A soloist in the Oakland Chamber Choir, he helped found the non-profit Sustaining A Village Everyday, which raised \$29,000 to provide food and clean water to a village in Haiti. He has volunteered locally at a medical clinic and a nursing home.

"Brock's performance by winning three state titles in less than 12 hours was truly remarkable," said Phil Young, head coach at Siegel High. "Despite Brock's success he has always been able to look in the mirror and recognize that changes are necessary from within in order to continue or regain his success."

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

Baker joins Gatorade Tennessee Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Tyler Anderson (2010-11, Hillsboro High School), Kevin Lazas (2009-10, Brentwood), Jordan Chaney (2008-09, Maryville), Sean Keveren (2007-08, Brentwood), and Ben Davies (2006-2007, Brentwood Academy) 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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