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**OZEN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE TEXAS 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 Tony Brown of Ozen High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Brown is the first Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Ozen 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 Brown as Texas'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, Brown 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-1, 190-pound junior won the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.40 seconds at the Class 4A state meet this spring, leading the Panthers to a third-place finish as a team. Brown also finished second in the 100-meter dash in 10.53. He was the Most Outstanding Performer at the Texas Relays, where he set stadium, meet and state records with a time of 13.38 in the 110 hurdles, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection, and the No. 9 performance in U.S. prep history.

Brown has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank, the American Red Cross, the Humane Society, blood-donation drives and a neighborhood watch program.

"I've never coached another student-athlete with his will and determination to succeed above and beyond expectations," said Ozen head coach Freddie Strange. "He's had to overcome tremendous adversity and he has my respect and total admiration."

Brown will begin his senior 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.

Brown joins recent Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Abraham Hall (2011-12, South Grand Prairie High School), Devin Field (2010-11, Lancaster High School), Sheroid Evans (2009-10, Dulles), Marquise Goodwin (2008-09 & 2007-08, Rowlett), and Robert Griffin (2006-2007, Copperas Cove) 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).

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