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HENRY FOSS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Marcus Chambers of Henry Foss High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Chambers is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Henry Foss 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 Chambers as Washington'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, Chambers 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-10 senior won two individual state championships for a second straight year at the Class 3A state meet this spring and led the Falcons to an 11th-place finish as a team. Chambers won the 400-meter dash in 46.36 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 21.30, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 and No. 40 performances respectively, among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection. He also won the 400 at the Arcadia Invitational.

Chambers has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Christian Students United club at Henry Foss High, he has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank and has donated his time as a teacher's aide in special education classes at Foss.

"What makes Marcus so exceptional is his poise and composure on the track," said John Hill, head coach of Bellevue High. "He is obviously very talented and has worked hard, and his demeanor in how he prepares to race is calm and focused."

Chambers has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on 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.

Chambers joins recent Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Marcus Dickson (2011-12, White River High School), Kasen Williams (2010-11, Skyline High School), Derek Eager (2009-10, Tahoma), Shane Moskowitz (2008-09, Central Kitsap), Miles Unterreiner (2007-08, Gig Harbor), and Jordan Stray (2006-2007, Centralia) 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.