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**CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Jacob Burcham of Cabell Midland High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Burcham is the first Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cabell Midland 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 Burcham as West Virginia'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, Burcham 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 three-time Gatorade Cross Country Runner of the Year and the two-time returning Gatorade Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Burcham won two individual state championships at the Class AAA state meet this spring and led the Knights to a second-place finish as a team. The 5-foot-10, 153-pound senior won the 1600 with a time of 4:13.33 and the 3200 in 9:08.34, winning both events for a third straight year. He also placed third in the 800 in 1:55.46 and ran the anchor leg for the winning 4x800-meter relay quartet. Burcham's top time in the 3000 of 8:22.62 at the Arcadia Invitational ranked as the No. 12 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection. He also ranked in the top 100 nationally in the mile, the 1600 and the 3200.

Burcham has maintained a weighted 4.07 GPA in the classroom. The vice president of the Cabell Midland High student body, he has volunteered locally doing routine maintenance and errands for the elderly and as a youth track coach and mentor.

"Jacob leaves behind a legacy that is unmatched in West Virginia," said Chris Parsons, head coach at Cabell Midland High. "He has brought national attention to our state. In addition to being an inspiration to his teammates, his impact has been felt through the state and has led to an elevation of performance among high school track and cross country programs in West Virginia."

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

Burcham joins Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Brandon Franklin (2009-10, Liberty), Zach Tennant (2008-09, North Marion), Eric Myers (2007-08, Sissonville), and Terrell Martin (2006-2007, Hurricane) 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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