Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE ARKANSAS BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO (June 20, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Brandon Workman of Rogers High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Workman is the second Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rogers 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 Workman as Arkansas'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, Workman 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, 170-pound senior jumper and sprinter won two individual state championships this spring, leading the Mountaineers to a second-place finish as a team at the Class 7A state meet. Workman captured the long jump, soaring 23 feet, five inches and the triple jump with a leap of 48-7, which ranked as the nation's No. 26 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection. A two-time First Team All-State honoree, he also won gold in the triple jump (45-1) at the Meet of Champions and captured first in the long jump at the Kansas Relays with a leap of 23-6.75.

Workman has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally as part of a literacy-outreach program and as a youth football coach.

"Brandon Workman has all the qualities that you would want in an athlete," said Rogers High head coach Jim Yurwitz. "He's smart, talented and a leader. His greatest strength is that he is so coachable. If you tell him to change something on his next jump, he has the ability to make that change. Not all athletes have that ability."

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

Workman joins recent Gatorade Arkansas Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mark Guffin (2012-13, Little Rock Christian Academy), Chase Lamers (2011-12, Rogers High School), Andrew Irwin (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Mt. Ida High School), Caleb Cross (2008-09, Newport), Jason Pelletier (2007-08, Bryant), and Spencer McCorkel (2006-2007, Bryant) 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.