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**FITCH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CONNECTICUT 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 Tyler Latham of Fitch High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Latham is the first Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Fitch 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 Latham as Connecticut'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, Latham 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-2, 180-pound senior won the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 38.85 seconds and the javelin with a throw of 184 feet at the State Open championships this season, leading the Falcons to third place as a team. The returning All-Area Boys' Track Athlete of the Year as named by The Day, Latham also finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles in 15.02. At the Class MM championships, he captured gold in the 110-meter hurdles in 14.92 seconds as well as the 300 hurdles (38.72) and the javelin (194-05). His javelin throw of 206-10 at the Middletown Invitational ranked as the nation's No. 11 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Latham has maintained a 3.44 GPA in the classroom. In addition to volunteering as a youth track instructor and official, he has donated his time on behalf of Students Against Destructive Decisions and his school's peer-mentoring and student-leadership programs. He has also participated in community service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society.

"He is a great competitor and nice young man," said Peter Lusa, head coach of rival Woodstock Academy. "He has many talents to offer his team. I observed him on several occasions this season and was always impressed with his character and attitude. He is a good sportsman and a worthy opponent."

Latham has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Central Connecticut State University 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.

Latham joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Henry Wynne (2012-13, Staples High School), Jake Scinto (2011-12, Cheshire High School), John Wlasuk (2010 - 11, Newtown High School), Chris FitzSimons (2009-10, Hamden), Cas Loxsom (2008-09, Wilbur Cross), Donn Cabral (2007-08, Glastonbury), and Terrell Wilks (2006-2007, Hillhouse) 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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