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**ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE 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 Zach Schmelz of St. Mark's High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schmelz is the first Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. Mark's 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 Schmelz as Delaware'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, Schmelz 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, 155-pound senior won the 400-meter dash with a time of 47.84 seconds at the Meet of Champions this season. The recipient of the New Castle County Coaches Cross Country & Track Association's Thomas H. Fort Award as State Track MVP, Schmelz anchored the winning 4x400-meter relay quartet that broke the tape in 3:22.38 as well as the second-place 4x200 squad, which crossed the line in 1:28.95. At the Division I championships, Schmelz won the 200-meter dash in 21.92 and the 400 in 49.21 in addition to anchoring gold medal-winning 4x200 and 4x400 relay foursomes. His 400 time at the Meet of Champions ranked as the nation's No. 79 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Schmelz has maintained a 3.80 weighted GPA in the classroom. A Life Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, he has donated his time on behalf of his church community and a foreign exchange student program.

"He transcends the team name on his shirt because everyone wants to see him run and succeed, regardless of team affiliation," said St. Mark's head coach Tom McCartan. "When he steps on the track, people stop what they are doing to watch. I've been doing this for a living for 14 years and have never had an athlete with this combination of natural ability, fierceness, drive and humility."

Schmelz has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Salisbury 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.

Schmelz joins recent Gatorade Delaware Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Lamar Bruton (2012-13, Howard High School of Technology), Sam Parsons (2011-12, The Tatnall School), Tyler Tate (2010 - 11, The Tatnall School), Ryan Lee (2009-10, Archmere Academy), Bobby Kennedy Jr. (2008-09, Caravel Academy), Isaiah Brisco (2007-08, Cape Henlopen), and Brian Sklodowski (2006-2007, Tatnall) 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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