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MINICO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE IDAHO 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 Josh Barclay of Minico High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Barclay is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year.

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 Barclay as Idaho'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, Barclay 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, 240-pound junior throws specialist won two individual state championships this spring, leading the Spartans to a 16th-place finish as a team at the Class 4A state meet. Barclay took gold by launching the discus 165 feet, 11 inches and set a meet record in the shot put with a 64-9 effort, the latter of which ranked as the nation's No. 10 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection. The 2014 Minico Times-News Boys Thrower of the Year, he won both his events at the Boise Relays, hurling the discus 160-11 inches and putting the shot 58-2.5.

Barclay has maintained a 3.72 GPA in the classroom. An Eagle Scout with the Boys Scouts of America and an accomplished pianist, he has volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group.

"Josh Barclay is a gifted thrower with as fast a ring speed as I have seen in a high school athlete," said James Parrish, head coach at Rigby High. "He loves to work hard and is a student of throwing. He has potential to be a national level thrower as a senior. He is a fine example of the work ethic of Idaho athletes."

Barclay will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Barclay joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Thomas Rigby (2012-13, Boise High School), Erik Harris (2011-12, Twin Falls High School), Dallas Burroughs (2010 – 11, Rocky Mountain High School), A.J. Boully (2009-10, Borah), Mitch Simmonds (2008-09, Cole Valley Christian), Eric Fitzpatrick (2007-08, Boise), and Taylor Farnsworth (2006-2007, Highland) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.