

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**LINN-MAR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IOWA 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 Evans of Linn-Mar High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Evans is the second Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Linn-Mar 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 Evans as Iowa'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, Evans 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-8, 150-pound senior distance talent won three individual state titles and contributed to a sprint medley championship this spring, leading the Lions to a second-place finish as a team at the Class 4A state meet. Evans took gold in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:50.98, the 1600-meter run in a state-meet record 4:06.32 and the 3200-meter run with a meet-record clocking of 9:00.97. He also anchored the winning SMR quartet, which broke the tape in 3:24.39. The state's returning Gatorade Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, he set a meet record in the 1600 (4:10.76) at the Drake Relays and his state meet time in the 1600 ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Evans has maintained a 4.45 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has volunteered locally on behalf Students Opposed to Drugs and Alcohol (S.O.D.A.) and Teens Reaching Youth.

"In my mind, Josh Evans represents everything great about Iowa track and field," said Patrick Mattingly, head coach at Johnston High. "He is an excellent competitor and even better kid. I have had many of my athletes tell me positive things about him in the way he competes and also in the way that he demonstrates himself amongst other competitors."

Evans has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field as well as cross country on an athletic scholarship at Iowa 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.

Two-time winner Evans joins Gatorade Iowa Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Conner Smock (2011-12, Lisbon High School), Kevin Lewis (2010 - 11, Ottumwa High School), Kyle Dunn (2009-10, Linn-Mar), Omet Kak (2008-09, North), Jarred Herring (2007-08, Burlington), and Matt Banse (2006-2007, Starmont) 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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