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**JEWEL M. SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE LOUISIANA 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 Devin King of Jewel M. Sumner High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. King is the second Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Jewel M. Sumner 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 King as Louisiana'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, King 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-1, 170-pound senior cleared a state-record 17 feet, 8 inches to win the pole vault at the Class 3A state championship meet this spring, leading the Cowboys to a second-place finish as a team. The national prep record-holder in the indoor pole vault, King was also first at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships with a clearance of 17-7. His state-championship vault ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

King has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally assisting the elderly and coaching youth track athletes.

"Devin King is a case of the right pairing of a talented athlete with an event that suits his mentality and physical ability," said former Olympian Erica Bartolina, owner of Bartolina Athletics. "Pole vaulting has come to him naturally from the very beginning, but he's contributed a lot of hard work and consistency. I think he cleared 17 feet at every meet this spring."

King has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Southeastern Louisiana 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.

King joins recent Gatorade Louisiana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Dylan Duvio (2012-13, John Curtis Christian School), Kavahra Holmes (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, Breaux Bridge High School), Andreas Duplantis (2009-10, Lafayette), Richard Sheldon (2008-09, Episcopal), Barrett Nugent (2007-08, North Vermillion), and Zedric Thomas (2006-2007, New Iberia) 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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