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**LONG REACH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Robert Carter of Long Reach High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Carter is the first Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Long Reach 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 Carter as Maryland'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, Carter 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, 185-pound senior won the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.22 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles in 37.74 at the Class 3A state meet this season, leading the Lightning to the championship as a team. A First Team All-Metro selection as named by both The Baltimore Sun and Washington Post, Carter also anchored the 4x100-meter relay quartet that broke the tape in 42.38 and the first-place 4x200 that clocked a 1:29.39. His state meet hurdles performances each ranked among the nation's top 100 performances among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Carter has maintained a 3.90 weighted GPA in the classroom and represents one of the state's top academic candidates in meeting the Gatorade award's broad criteria. A member of the National Honor Society and his school's Alpha Achievers chapter, he has donated his time as a youth football instructor, as a mentor to Bonnie Branch Middle School students and as part of a program dedicated to equipping women victimized by domestic violence with used cell phones.

"Rob is the hardest-working athlete I've ever coached in 32 years," said Long Reach head coach Pete Hughes. "He's driven not only in the classroom, but also in his extracurricular sports, where he was an All-County selection in football as well. He's worked his butt off to get where he is."

Carter has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Florida A&M 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.

Carter joins recent Gatorade Maryland Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Julian Woods (2012-13, Century High School), Dondre Echols (2011-12, Potomac High School), Ronald Darby (2010 - 11, Potomac High School), Marquis Woodyard (2009-10 & 2008-09, Governor Thomas Johnson), Jon Hill (2007-08, Walkersville), and Matthew Centrowitz (2006-2007, Broadneck) 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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