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MIDDLESEX SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Garrett O'Toole of Middlesex School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. O'Toole is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Middlesex 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 O'Toole as Massachusetts'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, O'Toole 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-11, 135-pound senior won the 800-meter run in a meet-record time of 1:52.32 as well as the 1,500 in a meet-record 3:58.24 at the Independent Schools Track Association championship meet this season, leading the Zebras to fourth place as a team. A returning Boys' Track All-Scholastic selection as named by The Boston Globe, O'Toole also anchored the bronze medal-winning 4x400-meter relay quartet that crossed the line in 3:34.98. His 1-mile time of 4:01.89 at the Adrian Martinez Classic and his 1,500 time of 3:45.55 at the Princeton Elite Meet both ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance by prep competitors in 2014 and amongst the top 25 clockings in U.S. prep history.

O'Toole has maintained a 3.37 GPA in the classroom. In addition to participating in his school's drama program as well as its FOCUS and jazz lunch clubs, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and the Open Table community assistance organization.

"Over the last four years, I have watched Garrett develop as a person and an athlete," said Scott Bosworth, head coach of rival Milton Academy. "With all the success that he has earned, he has remained humble, approachable and thoughtful. He is quick to support his teammates and athletes from other teams. He is universally liked and respected by his contemporaries at all of the 16 ISL schools. He has been a terrific role model. In all respects, Garrett is an ideal student athlete."

O'Toole will attend Princeton University this fall, where he will compete in track and field.

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.

O'Toole joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Alex Niemiec (2012-13, Chicopee Comprehensive High School), Josh Lampron (2011-12 & 2010 – 11, Mansfield High School), Sam Bombaugh (2009-10, Falmouth), Mark Vetere (2008-09, Andover), Omar Aden (2007-08, Charlestown), and Mark Amirault (2006-2007, Xaverian Brothers) 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.