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GRAND BLANC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MICHIGAN 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 Grant Fisher of Grand Blanc High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Fisher is the second Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Grand Blanc 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 Fisher as Michigan'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, Fisher 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-10, 140-pound junior won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:10.82 and the 3200-meter run in 9:07.11 at the Division 1 state championship meet this spring. The reigning Gatorade National Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Fisher also captured gold in the mile at the New Balance Nationals Indoor championships in 2014 and finished first at this month's adidas Dream Mile in 4:02.02, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors this spring at the time of his selection.

An All-State Honorable Mention in soccer this past fall, Fisher has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor at his school, he has volunteered locally as part of an effort to renovate the Grand Blanc High athletics concession stand in addition to donating his time to youth sports programs.

"Grant is very talented and very determined," said Grand Blanc coach Ed Stanbury. "He had some big goals after cross country season and he was really able to meet them. Winning the double at the state meet was important to him, because only three or four kids have been able to do that in the last 20 years."

Fisher will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Fisher joins recent Gatorade Michigan Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Cullen Prena (2012-13, Walled Lake Central High School), Garret Zuk (2011-12, Lakeland High School), Dartis Willis (2010 – 11, Detroit Country Day School), Omar Kaddurah (2009-10, Grand Blanc), Michael Atchoo (2008-09, Troy), Tommy Brinn (2007-08, Otsego), and Josh Hembrough (2006-2007, Forest Hills Northern) 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.