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**ROSEMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 20, 2014) — In its 29<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Payton Otterdahl of Rosemount High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Otterdahl is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rosemount 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 Otterdahl as Minnesota'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, Otterdahl 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-5, 220-pound senior thrower won two individual state championships this spring and led the Irish to a third-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet. Otterdahl captured gold by launching the shot put 61 feet, 0.5 inches and won the discus event with a throw of 173 feet, six inches. A First Team All-State selection, he completed an undefeated season in both events and his state title-winning throw in the shot ranked as the nation's No. 46 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Otterdahl has maintained a 3.01 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Feed My Starving Children, Sharing and Caring Hands and as a youth wrestling referee.

"Payton Otterdahl is a tremendous athlete in track and field," said Rosemount High head coach Jay Hateli. "The most exciting thing about him is that his best days are definitely ahead of him. He is still learning and developing physically."

Otterdahl has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at North Dakota 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.

Otterdahl joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Matt Neururer (2012-13, Pillager High School), Rilwan Alowonle (2011-12, Park High School), Mason Ferlic (2010 - 11, Mounds Park Academy), Macauley Spandl (2009-10, Moorhead), Casey Dehn (2008-09, Owatonna), Zach Mellon (2007-08, Buffalo), and Jerrell Hancock (2006-2007, Anoka) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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