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**CARDINAL RITTER COLLEGE PREP. STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSOURI 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 C.J. Jones of Cardinal Ritter College Prep. as its 2013-14 Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jones is the first Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cardinal Ritter College Prep.

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 Jones as Missouri'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, Jones 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-2, 165-pound senior middle distance talent won a pair of individual state championships and contributed to a relay title this spring, leading the Lions to a sixth-place finish as a team at the Class 3 state meet. Jones took gold and set meet records in both the 400-meter dash with a time of 47.01 seconds and the 800-meter run in 1:50.98, also anchoring the first-place 4x400-meter relay, which broke the tape in 3:19.98. A two-time First Team All-State selection, his state meet clocking in the 800 ranked as the nation's No. 6 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Jones has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in his church community, where he has served as an usher, he has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and as a tutor at a juvenile detention center.

"C.J. Jones is one of the most mentally tough individuals I have ever worked with," said Cardinal Ritter head coach Ruben Albright. "No goal is unattainable for him."

Jones has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track & field on an athletic scholarship at Texas Tech 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.

Jones joins recent Gatorade Missouri Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ezekiel Elliott (2012-13, John Burroughs High School), Dapo Akinmoladun (2011-12, Grandview High School), Daniel Everett (2010 - 11, Westminster Christian Academy), Dorial Green (2009-10, Hillcrest), Nick Happe (2008-09, Francis Howell North), Maurice Mitchell (2007-08 & 2006-07, Raytown South) 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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