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SILVERADO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE NEVADA 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 Dominic Smallwood of Silverado High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Smallwood is the second Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Silverado 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 Smallwood as Nevada'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, Smallwood 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, 160-pound senior won the long jump and triple jump at the Division I state meet this spring and led the Skyhawks to an eighth-place finish as a team. Smallwood leapt 24 feet, 1.25 inches in the long jump and 48-1.5 to win the triple jump. His season-best triple jump of 50-1 ranked as the nation's No. 8 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection and his top instrument-certified long jump of 23-11.5 ranked No. 19.

Smallwood has maintained a weighted 4.54 GPA in the classroom. An invited speaker at the Sun Youth Forum, a student-empowerment program, he has volunteered locally as a youth track coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives on behalf of his church.

"Dominic's got some super springs in his legs," said Jerry Oliver, head coach of Silverado High. "He's very dedicated. He never misses practice and he works year-round on his jumps."

Smallwood has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Southern California 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.

Smallwood joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Randall Cunningham (2012-13, Bishop Gorman High School), Nick Hartle (2011-12 & 2010 – 11, Centennial High School), Garic Wharton (2009-10 & 2008-09, Valley), Joseph Abbott (2007-08, Galena), and Cameron Kroll (2006-2007, Reno) 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.