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**ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Steele Wasik of St. Edward High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Wasik is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. Edward 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 Wasik as Ohio'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, Wasik 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, 200-pound senior won the 300-meter intermediate hurdles at the Division 1 state meet this spring, clocking a time of 36.31 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection. Wasik also captured silver in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 13.94, and took fifth in the long jump. The 2013 national AAU Junior Olympic Games champion in the decathlon, he earned bronze in the pentathlon at the 2014 New Balance Nationals Indoor championships.

Wasik has maintained a 4.12 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a youth track program.

"The time commitment required for the 10 events surrounding the decathlon is in the category of being a full-time job, but he's done that while maintaining the highest academic standards," said St. Edward coach Michael Young. "He leads his teammates on the track, in the classroom and in his volunteer work."

Wasik has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at UCLA 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.

Wasik joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Desmond Palmer (2012-13, Pickerington High School North), Donovan Robertson (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, Berea High School), Justin Welch (2009-10, Eastwood), Danny Neff (2008-09, Butler), Cory Leslie (2007-08, Perkins), and Jimmie Pacifico (2006-2007, Butler) 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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