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SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE OREGON 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 Matthew Maton of Summit High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Maton is the second Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Summit 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 Maton as Oregon'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, Maton 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, 135-pound junior distance talent won the 1500-meter run in a meet-record time of 3:53.08 as well as the 3000-meter run (8:29.87) at the Class 5A state championship meet this spring. The state's reigning Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Maton also took silver at this month's adidas Dream Mile with a 4:03.23 clocking. That mark, along with his season-best times of 3:49.38 in the 1500 and 8:18.66 in the 3000 all ranked among the nation's top three prep performances in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Maton has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of youth track clinics and at an animal shelter.

"Everyone has room for improvements, but his season was probably a 9.9 on a 10-point scale," said Summit head coach Dave Turnbull. "He has set himself up for high expectations and big goals next year. He's got great things ahead of him."

Maton 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.

Maton joins recent Gatorade Oregon Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Beau Brosseau (2012-13, Oregon City High School), Jefferson Jarvis (2011-12, Hidden Valley High School), Ryan Crouser (2010 - 11 & 2009-10, Sam Barlow High School), Elijah Greer (2008-09, Lake Oswego), Nathan Mathabane (2007-08, Lincoln), and Darius Buckner (2006-2007, Liberty) 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/pov.