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**HEMPFIELD AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA 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 Max Adams of Hempfield Area Senior High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Adams is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Hempfield Area Senior 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 Adams as Pennsylvania'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, Adams 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, 245-pound senior won the discus and shot put at the Class AAA state championship meet this spring, launching the discus 198 feet, 3 inches and hurling the shot put 61-4.25 to lead the Spartans to a third-place finish as a team. Adams also took silver in the discus and finished 10th in the shot put at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships. His gold-medal effort in the discus ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Adams has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. Also a football standout, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a food bank for the needy and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"Max has worked tremendously hard in the weight room and in the circle to perfect his craft," said Hempfield Area throws coach David Murray. "He's gotten a lot stronger since last year and I thought he was due for a big season."

Adams has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Wake Forest 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.

Adams joins recent Gatorade Pennsylvania Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jon Yohman (2012-13, Wilmington Area High School), Billy Stanley (2011-12, South Park High School), Eric Futch (2010 - 11, Penn Wood High School), Tom Mallon (2009-10, Central Bucks South), Justin Shirk (2008-09 & 2007-08, Central Dauphin), and Paul Springer (2006-2007, Unionville) 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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