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ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Jack Lembcke of Roosevelt High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lembcke is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Roosevelt 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 Lembcke as South Dakota'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, Lembcke 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-3, 255-pound senior throws specialist won a pair of individual state championships this spring and led the Roughriders to a second-place finish as a team at the Class AA state meet. Lemboke captured gold by hurling the shot put 60 feet, 0.75 inches and completed the double by launching the discus 179-9. The 2014 Class AA Outstanding Field Performer at the state meet, his season-best effort in the discus (189-8) at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays ranked as the nation's No. 16 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Lembcke has maintained a 3.04 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity, Sportsmen Against Hunger and as a peer math and science tutor.

"Jack Lembcke is one of the most driven athletes I've had the pleasure of coaching," said Roosevelt High coach Jason Wagoner. "He has become so technical with the throws and raised the bar for everyone around him. He set lofty goals for himself and worked extremely hard to achieve them. I couldn't be more proud of the young man and everything he has accomplished."

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

Lembcke joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Addison DeHaven (2012-13, Brookings High School), Tyler Schultz (2011-12, Custer High School), Tony Smoragiewicz (2010 - 11, Rapid City Central High School), Trevor Gebhart (2009-10, Washington), Alex Muntefering (2008-09, Parkston), Matt Tetzlaff (2007-08 & 2006-07, T.F. Riggs) 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.