Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

PRINCE GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE VIRGINIA 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 John Warren of Prince George High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Warren is the first Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Prince George 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 Warren as Virginia'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, Warren 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, 170-pound senior won the triple jump at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships this spring with a leap of 50 feet, 6.75 inches, which ranked as the nation's No. 3 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection. Warren also took gold in the triple jump at the Group 5A state meet, leading the Royals to a 17th-place finish as a team. Ranked No. 1 in the country in the triple jump during the 2013-14 indoor season, he has won three straight outdoor triple jump state titles in three different states—2014 in Virginia, 2013 at Leavenworth High in Kansas and 2012 at Killeen High in Texas.

Warren has maintained a 3.59 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics and donated his time to a recycling program at his former high school in Texas.

"It's his strength and his bounce—John's bounce is incredible," said Will Stevens, the jumping coach at Prince George High. "When the season started, I was (temporarily) in a wheelchair and he was doing jumps over me. It was amazing."

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

Warren joins recent Gatorade Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Michael Cherry (2012-13, Oscar Smith High School), Ahmed Bile (2011-12, Annandale High School), Isaiah Simmons (2010 - 11, Woodbridge High School), Darrell Wesh (2009-10, Landstown), Tyler Stutzman (2008-09, Western Albemarle), Peter Dorrell (2007-08 & 2006-07, Blacksburg) 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.