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**MCGILL-TOOLEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALABAMA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2015) — In its 30th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Sean Collins of McGill-Toolen Catholic High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Collins is the second Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from McGill-Toolen Catholic 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 Collins as Alabama'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, Collins 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 5-foot-9, 150-pound senior cleared a meet-record 17 feet in the pole vault at the Class 7A state championship meet this spring. Collins also finished second in the state in the decathlon with 6,103 points. His season-best pole vault of 17 feet, 3.25 inches at the Mobile Challenge of Champions was the best in state history and ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of his selection.

Collins has maintained a 3.66 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of St. Mary's Home, which assists children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned.

"Sean is the foundation of our team," said McGill-Toolen coach Drew Bentley. "His leadership through consistency and hard work has taught all my underclassman how to become champions. It's been like having an extra coach on staff."

Collins has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of South Alabama 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.

Collins joins recent Gatorade Alabama Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jaalen Jones (2013-14, Thompson High School), Grant Hill (2012-13, Huntsville High School), Joseph Williams (2011-12 & 2010-11, Spain Park High School), Keenan Brock (2009-10, Carver), Patrick McGregor (2008-09, Hoover), Kyle Smith (2007-08, Daphne), and Julio Jones (2006-07, Foley) 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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