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**ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2015) — In its 30<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Maurice Morris of Roosevelt High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Morris is the first Gatorade District of Columbia 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 Morris as District of Columbia'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, Morris 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, 165-pound senior sprinter set or shared in meet records in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the 4x400-meter relay at the District of Columbia State Athletic Association championships this spring, leading the Rough Riders to a third-place finish as a team. Morris won or shared in four gold medals in all, breaking the tape in the 100 in 10.76 and the 200 in 21.75. He also anchored the first-place 4x100 in 44.60 and the 4x400 with a 3:25.10 clocking. A 2015 Washington Post All-Met Honorable Mention selection, he was also a triple-event winner at the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association championships, winning the 100 in 10.97, the 200 in 21.83 and anchoring the 4x400 in 3:28.13.

Morris has maintained a 3.22 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home and participated in a summer scholar program in association with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

"Maurice Morris has always been a self-motivated athlete," said Roosevelt High head coach Anthony Bowden. "He's the kind of athlete who is very easy to coach. When he first came to me to run track he said he wanted to be the best. He must have meant it because he became the best."

Morris will attend North Carolina State this fall, where he will compete in track & field.

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.

Morris joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Acey Calhoun (2013-14, Woodrow Wilson High School), Michael Smith (2012-13, Dunbar High School), Mike Crozier (2011-12, Gonzaga College High School), Collin Leibold (2010-11, Gonzaga College High School), Imani Kelly (2009-10, Theodore Roosevelt), Seck Barry (2008-09 & 2007-08, St. Albans School), and Bernall Hailey (2006-07, Coolidge) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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