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**POCATELLO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Elijah Armstrong of Pocatello High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Armstrong is the first Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Pocatello 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 Armstrong as Idaho'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, Armstrong 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-5, 140-pound senior distance talent captured three individual state titles this spring, leading the Indians to a sixth-place finish as a team at the Class 4A state meet. Armstrong broke the tape in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:56.82, the 1600 in 4:13.06 and the 3200 in 9:13.29. The state's three-time Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year and a 12-time individual state champion, he earned second-place in the 3200 at the prestigious Arcadia Invitational, crossing the line in 8:52.16, which ranked as the nation's No. 11 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of his selection.

Armstrong has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society and a devoted parishioner in his church community, he has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple school fundraisers and as a youth track & field coach.

"Elijah Armstrong is an outstanding track & field athlete," said Marty Grindstaff, head coach Twin Falls High. "He's not just the best in Class 4A, he also outshined all the Class 5A boys at the state meet. He seems like a very nice and humble kid too."

Armstrong has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track on scholarship at Boise State 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.

Armstrong joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Josh Barclay (2013-14, Minico High School), Thomas Rigby (2012-13, Boise High School), Erik Harris (2011-12, Twin Falls High School), Dallas Burroughs (2010-11, Rocky Mountain High School), A.J. Bouly (2009-10, Borah), Mitch Simmonds (2008-09, Cole Valley Christian), Eric Fitzpatrick (2007-08, Boise), and Taylor Farnsworth (2006-07, Highland) 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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