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**HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY 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 Jaron Brooks of Henry Clay High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Brooks is the first Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Henry Clay 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 Brooks as Kentucky'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, Brooks 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-5, 175-pound junior captured three individual state titles at the Class 3A state meet and led the Blue Devils to a state championship as a team. Brooks won the high jump (6 feet, 10 inches), the long jump (22-10.25) and the triple jump (47-9.25). The state record-holder in the high jump with a personal-best of 7-1, he won the national title at this past winter's New Balance Nationals Indoor, and his season-best leap of 6-11.5 at this month's Caribbean Scholastic Invitational in Cuba ranked as the nation's No. 18 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of his selection.

Brooks has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally organizing and officiating middle school track meets in addition to serving as a youth track and soccer coach.

"Jaron Brooks has worked up from practically nothing last season to being the indoor national champion along with other accomplishments," said Kathy Broadnax, head coach of Bryan Station High. "I am impressed with his ability to do all three jumps and be successful at them."

Brooks will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Brooks joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Landon Young (2013-14, Lafayette High School), Jacob Thomson (2012-13, Holy Cross High School), Ronnie Baker (2011-12 & 2010-11, Ballard High School), Brandon Bagley (2009-10, John Hardin), Cameron Frazier (2008-09, Daviess County), Justin Green (2007-08, Louisville Male), and Brian Long (2006-07, St. Xavier) 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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