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**SAINT ALOYSIUS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MISSISSIPPI 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 DeMichael Harris of Saint Aloysius High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Harris is the first Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Saint Aloysius 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 Harris as Mississippi'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, Harris 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 junior swept his way to three individual state sprint titles this spring and led the Flashes to a Class 1A state championship as a team. Harris captured the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.75 seconds, the 200 in 21.82 and the 400 in 48.52. He also finished second in the triple jump with a leap of 42 feet, 8.5 inches.

Harris has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally as an usher at his church.

"Coaching DeMichael Harris is a once in a lifetime experience," said Saint Aloysius coach Michael Fields. "He's a true student-athlete and it's a pleasure and joy to see him compete at the highest level."

Harris 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.

Harris joins recent Gatorade Mississippi Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Terrell Smith (2013-14, Vicksburg High School), Evan Osborne (2012-13, Pearl High School), Justin Fondren (2011-12, Oxford High School), Sam Kendricks (2010-11, Oxford High School), Marcus Jackson (2009-10, J.Z. George), Willie Calvin (2008-09, Greenville-Weston), Morris Kersh (2007-08, Pearl), and Martin Lee (2006-07, Greenville-Weston) 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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