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**ALBUQUERQUE ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW MEXICO 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 Jackson Morris of Albuquerque Academy as its 2014-15 Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Morris is the fourth Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Albuquerque Academy.

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 New Mexico'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 6-foot-4, 180-pound sophomore throws specialist and decathlete captured three individual state championships this spring and led the Chargers to a first-place finish as a team at the Class 5A state meet. Morris took first in the discus with a throw of 166 feet, four inches and the shot put (46 feet-1.25). He earned his third title by launching the javelin (170-1). A 2015 First Team All-State selection, he won the shot put in the decathlon competition at the prestigious Great Southwest Classic with a throw of 43-3.25.

Morris has maintained a 3.29 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished guitarist, he has volunteered locally on behalf of Albuquerque's Animal Humane Adoption Center, the Roadrunner Food Bank and the Special Olympics.

"Jackson Morris is just scratching the surface in his potential as a track and field athlete," said Albuquerque Academy head coach Adam Kedge. "It was mid-season that he started to throw the javelin and progressed into a state champion. He has both the desire and the skills to progress into an outstanding decathlete."

Morris will begin his junior 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.

Morris joins recent Gatorade New Mexico Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mike Budick (2013-14, Volcano Vista High School), Luis Martinez (2012-13 & 2011-12, Sue Cleveland High School), Eric Fenton (2010-11, Hope Christian School), Warrick Campbell (2009-10, Highland), and Curtis Beach (2008-09, 2007-08, & 2006-07) Albuquerque Academy) 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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