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**NORMAN NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE OKLAHOMA 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 Ben Barrett of Norman North High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Barrett is the second Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Norman North 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 Barrett as Oklahoma'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, Barrett 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, 135-pound senior won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:27.89 and the 3200 in 9:34.68 at the Class 6A state meet this spring, leading the Timberwolves to a fourth-place finish as a team. The state's two-time Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Barrett also finished second in the 800. At the Meet of Champions, he shattered the state record in the 3200 with an 8:59.97 clocking, and he also broke the state record in the 1600, crossing the line in 4:09.97 at the Central Oklahoma Athletic Conference meet.

Barrett has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Norman North National Honor Society, Barrett has volunteered locally with the faith-based Young Life organization.

"He's had a dominant last couple of years, and this season he was able to make some pretty big leaps," said Norman North distance coach Jonathan Koscinski. "He's very controlled and very mature. He just keeps it simple and works so hard."

Barrett has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field and cross country on scholarship at North Carolina 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.

Barrett joins recent Gatorade Oklahoma Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kevin Roddy (2013-14, Duncan High School), Bo Farrow (2012-13, Broken Arrow High School), Bryce Robinson (2011-12, Edmond Memorial High School), Gunnar Nixon (2010-11 & 2009-10, Edmond Santa Fe High School), Jack Whitt (2008-09, Norman North), and Geoffrey Tabor (2007-08 & 2006-07, Ardmore) 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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