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**FREEMAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Brennan Schmidt of Freeman High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Schmidt is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Freeman 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 Schmidt as South Dakota'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, Schmidt 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-6, 155-pound senior sprinter won three individual state championships and anchored a winning 4x400-meter relay quartet this spring, leading the Flyers to a second-place finish as a team at the Class B state meet. Schmidt won the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.95 seconds, the 200 in 21.99 and the 400 in 49.25. The 2015 Class B Outstanding Track Performer at the state meet, he set a meet record in the 100 semifinals (10.95) and an overall state record in the preliminary heat of the 400 (47.54).

Schmidt has maintained a 3.77 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's yearbook staff, wind ensemble and concert choir, he has performed in the school musical.

"Brennan Schmidt is a very gifted athlete who has pushed himself to excel and meet his goals," said Freeman High head coach Rory Hermsen. "He has sacrificed personal glory for the benefit of the team."

Schmidt has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of South Dakota 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.

Schmidt joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jack Lembcke (2013-14, Roosevelt High School), Addison DeHaven (2012-13, Brookings High School), Tyler Schultz (2011-12, Custer High School), Tony Smoragiewicz (2010-11, Rapid City Central High School), Trevor Gebhart (2009-10, Washington), Alex Muntefering (2008-09, Parkston), and Matt Tetzlaff (2007-08, 2006-07, T.F. Riggs) 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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