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PROVO HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE UTAH 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 Chase Heiner of Provo High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Heiner is the second Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Provo 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 Heiner as Utah'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, Heiner 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-10, 165-pound senior won two individual state titles at the Class 4A state meet and led the Bulldogs to an 11th-place finish as a team. Heiner won the 200-meter dash in 21.87 seconds and the 400 with a time of 47.70, the latter of which ranked as the nation's No. 62 performance among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of his selecton. He also set the state record in the 200 in 21.35, which ranked No. 44 nationally.

Heiner has maintained a 3.25 GPA in the classroom. He spent the first semester of his senior year planning and teaching a class of freshmen on techniques for a successful high school experience. He also has volunteered locally as a youth football coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with his church community.

"Chase is a committed and dedicated athlete," said Phil Olsen, head coach of Provo High. "He takes the time and uses available resources to complete quality workouts helping him to reach his goals."

Heiner has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at Utah Valley University this fall.

The <u>Gatorade Player of the Year</u> 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 <u>USA TODAY High School Sports</u>, 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.

Heiner joins recent Gatorade Utah Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Cam Dopp (2013-14, Woods Cross High School), Ben Saarel (2012-13, Park City High School), Brad Nye (2011-12, Davis High School), Tyler Sorensen (2010-11, Richfield High School), Evan Argyle (2009-10, Pleasant Grove), Tyrell Yardley (2008-09, Syracuse), and Luke Puskedra (2007-08 & 2006-07, Judge Memorial Catholic) 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 <u>www.gatorade.com/poy</u>.