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**MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE VERMONT 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 Alec Eschholz of Mount Mansfield Union High School as its 2014-15 Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Eschholz is the second Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Mount Mansfield Union 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 Eschholz as Vermont'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, Eschholz 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 two-time returning Gatorade State Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 6-foot-1, 165-pound senior captured four individual state championships at the Division I state meet this spring for a second straight year and led the Cougars to a third-place finish as a team. Eschholz broke his own state record in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles with a time of 37.52 seconds, which ranked as the nation's No. 45 time among prep competitors in 2015 at the time of his selection. He also won the 110-meter high hurdles, the 200-meter dash and the javelin throw. The state record-holder in the 110 hurdles and the 400-meter intermediate hurdles, his time of 53.50 in the latter ranked as the nation's No. 19 performance among prep competitors in 2015.

Eschholz has maintained a 3.87 GPA in the classroom. A member of Mount Mansfield High's Athletic Leadership Council, he has volunteered locally assisting community-beautification projects in addition to serving as a youth track coach and youth soccer referee.

"Alec Eschholz may be the ultimate—smart, fast and so dedicated," said Chip Langmaid, head coach of St. Johnsbury Academy. "He's the Vermont version of Robohurdler! Just when it seems he can't get faster, he lowers his records."

Eschholz will attend Dartmouth College, where he will compete with the track team 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.

Three-time winner Eschholz joins Gatorade Vermont Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jacob Ellis (2011-12, Brattleboro Union High School), Mike DiMambro (2010-11 & 2009-10, Essex High School), Adron Pitmon (2008-09, Mt. Mansfield Union), Ken Bunnell (2007-08, St. Johnsbury Academy), and David Kennedy (2006-07, Lamoille Union High School) 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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