

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ALASKA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 2016) — In its 31st year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Brett Morman of South Anchorage High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Morman is the second Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from South Anchorage 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 Morman as Alaska'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, Morman 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, 150-pound senior won two individual titles at the Class 4A state meet this season, leading the Wolverines to fourth place as a team. After missing 2015 with a back injury, Morman swept the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.95 seconds and the 200-meter dash in 22.00, then anchored the 4x100-meter relay squad that earned fourth-place points in 45.33. His 100- and 200-meter dash times at the state meet came within 0.05 and 0.10 seconds, respectively, of the state's 21-year-old sprint records.

Morman has maintained a 4.35 weighted GPA in the classroom and ranks No. 2 in his graduating class. He has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and the Alaska Zoo.

"This young man overcame six months of pain and no sleep with a spinal problem, then back surgery, and spent the entire offseason preparing to run," said South Anchorage head coach John Lewis. "Never losing his academic focus through visible pain that everyone could see—in pain 24/7—and not having an outlook that it was going to get better, he ran faster than he ever had and led a small group of boys to capture fourth in the state postseason. Best kid ever to be around."

Morman will attend UCLA 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.

Morman joins recent Gatorade Alaska Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Levi Thomet (2014-15, 2013-14 & 2012-13, Kodiak High School), Tyler Rohde (2011-12, Chugiak High School), Elliott Bauer (2010-11, South Anchorage High School), Silas Talbot (2009-10, Service High School), Trevor Dunbar (2008-09, Kodiak High School), and Jordan Clarke (2007-08 & 2006-2007, Bartlett 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.

###