

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**VISTA MURRIETA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE CALIFORNIA 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 Michael Norman of Vista Murrieta High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Norman is the first Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Vista Murrieta 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 Norman as California'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, Norman 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-1, 167-pound senior won two individual state titles and anchored two first-place relays at the state meet this past season, leading the Broncos to the state championship as a team. The returning Gatorade National Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year, Norman won the 200-meter dash in 20.42 seconds and the 400-meter dash in 45.77, while also leading the 4x100 and 4x400 relays to victory. His personal-best time of 20:23 in the 200 and his season-best 45.51 in the 400 both ranked as the nation's No. 1 performances among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of his selection. His mark in the 200 places him fifth in U.S. prep history in the event. Norman produced a personal best in the 100-meter dash this season as well, clocking a 10.27, which was this spring's No. 2 time nationwide.

Norman has maintained a 3.61 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's Do Good Things community service club, he has volunteered on behalf of the Special Olympics, St. Martha's Food and Pantry for the needy and the Temecula Time Machine track club's youth program. He has also donated his time as part of the Buchanan Elementary School Fall Festival, the Vista Murrieta Shoe Drive and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure to benefit cancer research.

"Michael is the most talented high school track athlete I have ever seen," said Vista Murrieta coach David Olson. "Coaches often use the cliché 'practice every day to get better,' but Michael takes this to heart. Every week, every day, every moment he is on the track, he is doing everything he can to push himself to the highest level."

Norman has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of Southern California 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.

Two-time winner Norman joins Gatorade California Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Nate Moore (2013-14, Castro Valley High School), Khalfani Muhammad (2012-13, Notre Dame High School), Darren Fahy (2011-12, La Costa Canyon High School), Remontay McClain (2010-11, Covina High School), Sean Krinik (2009-10, Valencia High School), Mac Fleet (2008-09, University City High School), German Fernandez (2007-08, Riverbank High School), and Bryshon Nellum (2006-07, Long Beach Polytechnic 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.

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