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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE IDAHO 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 Slagowski of Rocky Mountain High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Slagowski is the second Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Rocky Mountain 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 Slagowski as Idaho'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, Slagowski 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, 130-pound senior distance talent won three individual titles this spring, leading the Mounties to the team title at the Class 5A state meet. Slagowski took first in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:49.36, the 1600-meter run in 4:16.76 and the 3200-meter run in 9:36.86. A six-time individual state champion, he became just the ninth prep runner in U.S. history to run a sub-four-minute mile, which he accomplished at the Jesuit Twilight Relays in Portland, Ore. in April with a time of 3:59.53. Slagowski also won the 1600 at the Pasco Invitational, crossing the line in 4:03.97, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of his selection. Against a field of pro competitors in May's Prefontaine Classic, Slagowski clocked a 3:59.78 to become he first prep to break four minutes twice in the same outdoor season since Jim Ryun in 1965.

Slagowski has maintained a 3.32 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Idaho Food Bank and has also served as a YMCA advisory board member.

"To be a good distance runner, it takes determination, talent, work ethic and belief in your ability," said Rocky Mountain distance coach Bob Hayes. "Michael Slagowski has all these qualities and more. He is a combination of speed and endurance which makes him a very talented runner."

Slagowski has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Penn State University 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.

Slagowski joins recent Gatorade Idaho Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Elijah Armstrong (2014-15, Pocatello High School), Josh Barclay (2013-14, Minico High School), Thomas Rigby (2012-13, Boise High School), Erik Harris (2011-12, Twin Falls High School), Dallas Burroughs (2010-11, Rocky Mountain High School), A.J. Bouilly (2009-10, Borah High School), Mitch Simmonds (2008-09, Cole Valley Christian High School), Eric Fitzpatrick (2007-08, Boise High School), and Taylor Farnsworth (2006-07, Highland 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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