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**CARL SANDBURG HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS 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 Sean Torpy of Carl Sandburg High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Illinois Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Torpy is the first Gatorade Illinois Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Carl Sandburg 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 Torpy as Illinois'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, Torpy 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, 150-pound senior broke a state record with his clocking of 1:47.95 in the 800-meter run at the Midwest Distance Classic this past season, which ranked as the nation's No. 1 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of his selection. Torpy won the 1600-meter run at the Class 3A state meet in 4:15.13 and helped the 4x800 relay win with a time of 7:37.36, breaking another state record. He also holds the nation's fastest time of 4:03.42 in the 1600.

Torpy has maintained a 3.69 GPA in the classroom. A member of his school's Athletic Leadership Council, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a food pantry and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"Sean is the best pure racer I have seen in 16 years coaching in Illinois track and field," said Carl Sandburg coach Joe Nemeth. "From his first race as a freshman, he had the mindset of never being beaten on the track. He didn't win every race, but for four years the team always felt that he would, no matter what the distance. His competitive fight is unmatched."

Torpy has signed a National Letter of Intent to run on an athletic scholarship at the University of Miami (Ohio) 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.

Torpy joins recent Gatorade Illinois Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Ja'Mari Ward (2014-15 & 2013-14, Cahokia High School), Kyle Landon (2012-13, Chester High School), Carl Heinz (2011-12, Oak Park River Forest High School), Zach Ziemek (2010-11, Lake Park High School), Logan Pflibsen (2009-10, Streator Township High School), Dan Block (2008-09, Lake Park High School), Mat Smoody (2007-08, Palatine High School), and Evan Jager (2006-07, Jacobs 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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