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**CONCORD-CARLISLE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE MASSACHUSETTS 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 Thomas Ratcliffe of Concord-Carlisle High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Ratcliffe is the first Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Concord-Carlisle 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 Ratcliffe as Massachusetts'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, Ratcliffe 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-9, 140-pound senior won the 2-mile run at the state's Track and Field Outdoor Championships this past season, leading the Patriots to a 15th-place finish as a team. Ratcliffe crossed the finish line in a state-record 9:00.52, more than 19 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher. That clocking came two days after he set the state record in the mile at the Adrian Martinez Classic with a time of 4:01.50, which ranked as the nation's No. 4 time in 2016 among prep competitors at the time of his selection.

Ratcliffe has maintained a weighted 4.20 GPA in the classroom. He is the cofounder of a student firewood business that chops, delivers and stacks wood for customers. He has also volunteered locally at a non-profit organic farm that distributes produce to families in need.

"Thomas has dominated the distance races in Massachusetts for the past two years," said Henry Phelan, head coach of Lincoln-Sudbury High. "His races are must-see events. No one takes control of a race like he does. Once the race is on everyone else is running for second."

Ratcliffe has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at Stanford University beginning 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.

Ratcliffe joins recent Gatorade Massachusetts Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Sean Caveney (2014-15, Andover High School), Garrett O'Toole (2013-14, Middlesex School), Alex Niemiec (2012-13, Chicopee Comprehensive High School), Josh Lampron (2011-12 & 2010-11, Mansfield High School), Sam Bombaugh (2009-10, Falmouth High School), Mark Vetere (2008-09, Andover High School), Omar Aden (2007-08, Charlestown High School), and Mark Amirault (2006-07, Xaverian Brothers 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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