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**WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE MINNESOTA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Jaret Carpenter of Wayzata High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Carpenter is the first Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Wayzata 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 Carpenter as Minnesota'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, Carpenter 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-8, 125-pound senior distance talent won two individual titles this spring and led the Trojans to a championship as a team at the Class AA state meet. Carpenter broke the tape in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:10.89 and also took first the 3200-meter run in 9:10.46. Also the state's Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, he won the 3200 at April's Hamline Elite Meet in 8:59.76, which ranked as the nation's No. 39 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of his selection.

Carpenter has maintained an 11.6 GPA on a 12-point scale in the classroom. An accomplished guitarist, he has worked part-time at an area retail store and volunteered locally on behalf of his church youth group.

"Jaret Carpenter has a rare combination of athletic talent and team leadership," said Wayzata High head coach Aaron Berndt. "He is an extremely humble person who seeks out ways to help others. He puts the team before individual success and is the type of athlete every coach wants on his or her team."

Carpenter has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at the Purdue 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.

Carpenter joins recent Gatorade Minnesota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Joe Klecker (2014-15, Hopkins High School), Payton Otterdahl (2013-14, Rosemount High School), Matt Neururer (2012-13, Pillager High School), Rilwan Alowonle (2011-12, Park High School), Mason Ferlic (2010-11, Mounds Park Academy), Macauley Spandl (2009-10, Moorhead High School), Casey Dehn (2008-09, Owatonna High School), Zach Mellon (2007-08, Buffalo High School), and Jerell Hancock (2006-07, Anoka 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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