

**Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)**

**DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE NEVADA 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 Zachary Hawley of Dayton High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hawley is the first Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Dayton 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 Hawley as Nevada'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, Hawley 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-3, 210-pound senior won the shot put at the Division IA state meet this past season, leading the Dust Devils to a fifth-place finish as a team. Hawley set a state meet record by winning the shot put with a throw of 60 feet, 1 inch, which at the time of his selection ranked as the nation's No. 73 distance in 2016 among prep competitors. A two-time state champion in the shot, he also placed third in the discus at states with a throw of 180-1.

Hawley has maintained a weighted 4.05 GPA in the classroom. A talented musician who plays guitar, violin, piano and saxophone, he was the Dayton High Science Student of the Year, English Student of the Year and Senior of the Year. He was also the keynote speaker at the Dayton Intermediate School 4.0 Dinner and has volunteered locally as a youth track coach.

"Zach is the hardest-working athlete I have ever had," said Mike Paul, head coach of Dayton High. "He is motivated and very committed to his sport. I often need to send him home from practice because he never wants to quit."

Hawley will attend Cornell University, where he will compete with the track team 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.

Hawley joins recent Gatorade Nevada Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mark Rubalcaba (2014-15, Faith Lutheran High School), Dominic Smallwood (2013-14, Silverado High School), Randall Cunningham (2012-13, Bishop Gorman High School), Nick Hartle (2011-12 & 2010-11, Centennial High School), Garic Wharton (2009-10 & 2008-09, Valley High School), Joseph Abbott (2007-08, Galena High School), and Cameron Kroll (2006-07, Reno 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).

###