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**SOUHEGAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Sebastian Eaton of Souhegan High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Eaton is the second Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Souhegan 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 Eaton as New Hampshire'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, Eaton 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, 155-pound junior won three individual titles at the state's Division II meet this past season, leading the Sabers to the championship as a team. Eaton won the 100-meter dash in 11.11 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 22.79 and the 400-meter dash in 50.26, also anchoring the silver medal-winning 4x100 relay quartet. At the state's Meet of Champions, he captured gold in the 400 and bronze in the 200.

Eaton has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an animal rescue organization.

"Sebastian sets individual and team goals and puts in the hard work to achieve them," said Souhegan sprints coach Cathy Merra. "He's a student of running and spends time studying the coaching methods of Olympic coaches."

Eaton will begin his senior year of high school 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.

Eaton joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Eli Moskowitz (2014-15, Souhegan High School), John Cioffredi (2013-14, Lebanon High School), Zak Jenkins (2012-13, Nashua North High School), Romario Bailey (2011-12, Stevens High School), D'Mahl McFadden (2010-11, Merrimack Valley High School), Dominic Filiano (2009-10, Lebanon High School), Mike Marshall (2008-09, Salem High School), Matt Paulson (2007-08, Central High School), and Gabe Dano (2006-07, Merrimack Valley 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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