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**EAST ORANGE CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NEW JERSEY 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 Cory Poole of East Orange Campus High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Poole is the first Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from East Orange Campus 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 Poole as New Jersey'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, Poole 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 junior swept the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 13.71 seconds and the 400-meter hurdles in 52.50 at the Meet of Champions this past season. NJ.com's Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Poole also captured the 110 hurdles (13.73) and the 400 hurdles (52.57) in addition to anchoring the winning 4x400-meter relay quartet (3:16.99) at the Group IV championship meet, leading the Jaguars to second place as a team. At the time of his selection, his 110 hurdles time at the Meet of Champions and his 400 hurdles clocking of 51.56 seconds that earned him silver at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships both ranked as top-10 performances nationally among prep competitors in 2016.

Poole has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of community cleanup efforts as well as the East Orange Recreation Center and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

"As a coach from an opposing team, I can say Cory is one of the most humble superstars I have ever met," said NaDeen Richardson, head coach at rival West Side High. "He's a team player, he's always friendly and approachable, he's a leader and sets a great example for all athletes in our county."

Poole 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.

Poole joins recent Gatorade New Jersey Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Taylor McLaughlin (2014-15, Union Catholic High School), Curtis Thompson (2013-14, Florence Township Memorial High School), Braheme Days Jr. (2012-13, Bridgeton High School), Sam Mattis (2011-12, East Brunswick High School), Nick Vena (2010-11, 2009-10, 2008-09 & 2007-08, Morristown High School), and Craig Forsys (2006-07, Colts Neck 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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