

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE NORTH DAKOTA 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 Zach Sweep of Century High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Sweep is the third Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Century 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 Sweep as North Dakota'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, Sweep 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-2, 205-pound senior hurdler and jumper captured a pair of individual titles this spring, leading the Patriots to a state championship as a team at the Class A state meet. Sweep took first in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 14.74 seconds as well as the high jump, clearing six feet, six inches. He also finished fourth in the long jump, soaring 21 feet, 8.75 inches. A First Team All-State selection in both track & field and football, Sweep was also a dual-event champ at the Class A West Region meet, winning the 110 hurdles (14.34) and the high jump (6-4).

Sweep has maintained a 3.48 GPA in the classroom. A member of his church youth group, he has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter in addition to donating his time as both a youth football and track & field coach.

"Zach Sweep has earned my respect through his exemplary academic and athletic accomplishments," said Bismarck Century head coach Tim Jacobsen. "In my opinion, his greatest strength is his willingness to work hard to achieve team and individual goals while displaying admirable behavior and leadership."

Sweep has signed a National Letter of Intent to play football on scholarship at Minnesota State University at Moorhead 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.

Sweep joins recent Gatorade North Dakota Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Jon Tharaldsen (2014-15, Bismarck High School), Landon Jochim (2013-14, Century High School), Jake Leingang (2012-13, Bismarck High School), Drew Wiseman (2011-12, Century High School), Brock Larson (2010-11, Fargo South High School), Brandon Barnes (2009-10, Bismarck High School), Ryan Todhunter (2008-09, Red River High School), Jason Duchsherer (2007-08, Bismarck High School), and Weston Leutz (2006-07, Century 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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