

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**WATKINS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Andrew Jordan of Watkins Memorial High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Jordan is the first Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Watkins Memorial 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 Jordan as Ohio'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, Jordan 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, 120-pound senior distance talent set a state meet record in the 3200 at the Division I state meet this spring. Also state's Gatorade Boys Cross Country Runner of the Year, Jordan broke the tape in 8:54.96. He also won the event at the Eastern Relays in April with a time of 8:46.72, which ranked as the nation's No. 2 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of his selection. Jordan completed the season undefeated in both the 1600-meter run and the 3200.

Jordan has maintained a 4.14 GPA in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, he has volunteered as a student ambassador at his school and also served as the vice president of the student government.

"I am totally impressed with Andrew Jordan's work ethic and talent," said Chuck Kyle, head coach at St. Ignatius High. "His improvement from his junior year to senior year is a clear indication of his off-season effort. Jordan always runs a confident but disciplined pace. He is a strong, friendly competitor."

Jordan has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Iowa State 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.

Jordan joins recent Gatorade Ohio Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Chad Zallow (2014-15, John F. Kennedy High School), Steele Wasik (2013-14, St. Edward High School), Desmond Palmer (2012-13, Pickerington High School North), Donovan Robertson (2011-12 & 2010-11, Berea High School), Justin Welch (2009-10, Eastwood), Danny Neff (2008-09, Butler High School), Cory Leslie (2007-08, Perkins High School), and Jimmie Pacifico (2006-07, Butler 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.

###