

Contact: John Manzo (312-729-3656)

**BELLARMINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WASHINGTON 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 Jack Yearian of Bellarmine Preparatory School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Yearian is the first Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bellarmine Preparatory 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 Yearian as Washington'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, Yearian 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 returning Gatorade State Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-7, 125-pound senior captured two individual state titles at the Class 4A state meet for a second straight year and led the Lions to a fifth-place finish as a team. Yearian won the 1,600-meter run and the 3,200-meter run. His 4:07.68 clocking in the 1600 ranked as the nation's No. 17 time in 2016 among prep competitors at the time of his selection. A five-time state champion, he also produced national rankings in the mile run (No. 14), the 3200 (No. 80) and the 800-meter run (No. 100).

Yearian has maintained a 3.78 GPA in the classroom. An officer with the Associated Student Body at Bellarmine Prep, he has volunteered locally at a food bank and homeless shelter in addition to donating his time as a youth track coach.

"Jack Yearian is a fierce and confident competitor on the track," said Duane Lee, head coach of Lincoln High. "His belief in his training, along with his natural foot speed, makes him one of the best runners we've seen in some time."

Yearian has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at the University of Oregon 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.

Two-time winner Yearian joins Gatorade Washington Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Drew Schreiber (2013-14, Eisenhower High School), Marcus Chambers (2012-13, Henry Foss High School), Marcus Dickson (2011-12, White River High School), Kasen Williams (2010-11, Skyline High School), Derek Eager (2009-10, Tahoma High School), Shane Moskowitz (2008-09, Central Kitsap High School), Miles Unterreiner (2007-08, Gig Harbor High School), and Jordan Stray (2006-07, Centralia 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.

###