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**FOX VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE WISCONSIN 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 Ben Gucinski of Fox Valley Lutheran High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gucinski is the first Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Fox Valley Lutheran 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 Gucinski as Wisconsin'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, Gucinski 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-1, 165-pound senior jumper set a state record in the high jump at the Division 2 state meet this spring. Gucinski cleared seven feet, one inch to shatter the previous mark, which had stood for 24 years. The leap ranked as the nation's No. 7 performance among prep competitors in 2016 at the time of his selection. He finished the season undefeated in the high jump and also won the event at the 2016 Senior All-Star Spotlight (6-10).

Gucinski has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner of his church community, he has volunteered as a mentor to international students at his school and as a youth track & field coach.

"Ben Gucinski is a dedicated, hard-working young man who thrives on competition," said Fox Valley Lutheran High head coach Isaiah Degner. "He is always rising to his best when the pressure is on. He has put in hundreds of hours of training to reach the level he is at today and is an outstanding leader and role model for our track team."

Gucinski has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete on an athletic scholarship at Wisconsin Lutheran College 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.

Gucinski joins recent Gatorade Wisconsin Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Olin Hacker (2014-15, Madison West High School), Glen Harold (2013-14, Brookfield East High School), Carl Hirsch (2012-13 & 2011-12, Brookfield Central High School), Ben Schreib (2010-11, Martin Luther High School), Gabe Genovesi (2009-10, Homestead High School), Matt Widule (2008-09, Menomonee Falls High School), and Paul Annear (2007-08 & 2006-07, Richland Center 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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