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**CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA BOYS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 2016) — In its 31<sup>st</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Tristan Slater of Capital High School as its 2015-16 Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Slater is the third Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Capital 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 Slater as West Virginia'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, Slater 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-11, 162-pound senior won the pole vault at the Class AAA state meet for a third straight year this past season. A member of the Canadian National Team and the 2014 Canadian Junior national champion, Slater set a state record in the pole vault with a clearance of 17 feet, 1 inch, which ranked as the nation's No. 8 height in 2016 among prep competitors at the time of his selection.

Slater has maintained a 3.73 GPA in the classroom. A Life Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer and track coach.

"Tristan Slater was very consistent, participated in other events to help his team and made the pole vault exciting," said Rod O'Donnell, head coach of Parkersburg High. "He should be a great one on the next level."

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

Slater joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Christian Buckley (2014-15 & 2013-14, Poca High School), Jacob Burcham (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Cabell Midland High School), Brandon Franklin (2009-10, Liberty High School), Zach Tennant (2008-09, North Marion High School), Eric Myers (2007-08, Sissonville High School), and Terrell Martin (2006-07, Hurricane 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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