

Standout named Athlete of the Year

Written by George Browning
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In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Codie Hamsley of Floyd Central High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Hamsley is the first Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Floyd Central 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 Hamsley as Indiana'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, Hamsley 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-7, 225-pound senior launched the discus 194 feet to win the state title this spring. Also the sectional champion in the discus and shot put, Hamsley's season-best discus throw of 201-3 ranked as the nation's No. 5 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of his selection.

Hamsley has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted member of his church youth group, he has volunteered as a religious education teacher and has raised funds to benefit Riley Hospital for Children.

"Codie's discus throw marks are among the best in the nation," said Floyd Central head coach Lane Oxley. "But his legacy to our track and field program will be his team leadership. He raised the bar for the entire team and was like an additional coach."

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

Hamsley joins recent Gatorade Indiana Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year Futsum Zeinasellassie (2011-12, North Central High School), Austin Mudd (2010-11 & 2009-10, Center Grove High School), Corey Shank (2008-09, Northrop), Kevin Schipper (2007-08, Bishop Dwenger), and Benjamin Roy Stephen (2006-2007, Union County) 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

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