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**CARAVEL ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® DELAWARE SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Carolyn Szymanski of Caravel Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year. Szymanski is the third Gatorade Delaware Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Caravel Academy.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Szymanski as Delaware's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Szymanski joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Angela Tincher (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-8 senior right-handed pitcher posted an 18-3 record with a 0.54 ERA and 222 strikeouts in 141.2 innings-pitched this past season, leading the Buccaneers (18-3) to the state semifinals. Szymanski hurled 12 shutouts and seven no-hitters, including three perfect games. The state's returning Player of the Year as named by The News Journal, Szymanski also batted .426 with three home runs and 29 RBI. Also a three-time returning First Team All-State selection, she led Caravel to state titles in 2010 and 2011.

Szymanski has maintained a 3.19 GPA in the classroom and served in her school's student government. She has volunteered on behalf of the Needy Family Fund and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

"If I was going to pick a team tomorrow, I'd pick Carolyn Szymanski," said John Wells, head coach of rival Sussex Central High. "She does it all. She can throw with power, she has all the pitches—changeup, curve, screw, drop—and she can throw them all day long. She'll throw as many innings as you want, and she can hit. She's won games with the bat, too."

Szymanski has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Coastal Carolina 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.

Szymanski joins recent Gatorade Delaware Softball Players of the Year Kim Smith (2011-12, Sussex Tech High School), Rachel Gillen (2010-11, 2009-10 & 2008-09, Archmere Academy), Erika Brittingham (2007-08, Sussex Central), and Brandy Jester (2006 - 07, Sussex Central) 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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