

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**PADUA ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2013) — 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 Maiya Dendy of Padua Academy as its 2012-13 Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Dendy is the third Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Padua 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 track, distinguishes Dendy as Delaware's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Dendy joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, 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.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-7 sophomore won three individual championships at the Meet of Champions this season. The state's William A. Thomson Award winner as named by the New Castle County Coaches Cross Country & Track Association, Dendy won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.87 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 24.05 and the 400-meter dash in a state-record 54.37. She also anchored the 4x400-meter relay squad that broke the tape in 3:55.44. Dendy's 200-meter dash time of 23.96 at the Caravel Invitational and 100-meter dash time of 11.68 at the Division II championships also set state records. Her fastest 200 and 400 times each ranked in the top 40 among U.S. prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection.

Dendy has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to volunteering locally on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives, she has donated her time as manager of her school's cross country team that competes in the fall.

"Maiya's presence has given my athletes more confidence to both compete at their best and to try new events," said Padua head coach Marnie Giunta. "With Maiya setting state records in the 100, 200 and 400, it has allowed my other runners to focus on other events. Her success has enabled the coaches to push the limits higher, and the athletes are responding. The girls are outperforming their talent with their heart and determination, believing that they can. That is the impact Maiya is having with this team."

Dendy will begin her junior year of high school 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.

Dendy joins recent Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Haley Pierce (2011-12 & 2010-11, The Tatnall School), Celina Emerson (2009-10, Delcastle Technical), Juliet Bottorff (2008-09, The Tatnall School), Brieanna Kennedy (2007-08, Caravel Academy), and Nikko Brady (2006-2007, Charter School of Wilmington) 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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