

**Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)**

**GEORGETOWN VISITATION PREPARATORY SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 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 Emily Kaplan of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School as its 2012-13 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Kaplan is the first Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory 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 Kaplan as District of Columbia'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, Kaplan 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-6 sophomore distance runner won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:56.70 and the 3200-meter run in 10:55.37 this spring, leading the Cubs to the Independent School League championship as a team. The 2012-13 Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, Kaplan set ISL records in both the 1600 and the 3200, and also set a meet record in the 3200 at the Northern Virginia Invitational with a time of 10:42.17.

Kaplan has maintained a 4.30 GPA and is ranked first in her graduating class. She has volunteered locally on behalf of an assisted living facility.

"Emily Kaplan is an extremely hard-working and accomplished high school student-athlete," said Jim Ehrenhaft, head coach at the National Cathedral School. "Her performances this spring were phenomenal."

Kaplan 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.

Kaplan joins recent Gatorade District of Columbia Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kiah Seymour (2011-12, Archbishop Carroll High School), Destiny Phillips (2010-11, Dunbar High School), Angela Bonham (2009-10 & 2008-09, Dunbar), JuaShaunna Kelly (2007-08, Roosevelt), and DeAnna Brown (2006-2007, Dunbar) 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).

###