

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OF BALTIMORE STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE MARYLAND 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 Ellie Gonzalez of The Catholic High School of Baltimore as its 2012-13 Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Gonzalez is the first Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from The Catholic High School of Baltimore.

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 Gonzalez as Maryland'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, Gonzalez 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-5 junior won the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:53.08 and the 3200-meter run in 10:39.86 at the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland state meet this spring. The 2013 Female Athlete of the Year as named by The Baltimore Sun, Gonzalez's 1,600- and 3,200-meter run times at the state meet, respectively, ranked No. 56 and No. 84 among U.S. prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection. She swept the 1600 and 3200 as a sophomore at the 2012 state meet in addition to capturing the 800-meter run as a freshman in 2011.

Also a cross country standout and accomplished pianist, Gonzalez has maintained a 4.36 weighted GPA in the classroom in addition to attending the United States Naval Academy's summer seminar and taking collegiate courses at Brown University, Anne Arundel Community College and University of Maine at Machias. A member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society and her school's Theology Club, she has volunteered as a peer tutor, a Sunday School teacher, a youth swimming instructor and as a Baltimore City Head Start teacher's assistant.

"Ellie is the most determined and competitive athlete I have ever worked with," said Catholic athletic director Kari McBride. "She sets personal goals and strives to beat them in practice—not just meets. Most high school athletes turn the aggression and competitive nature on in games. Not Ellie. She has it every single day, practice or meet. She makes our program better because other athletes see her desire, and I think it makes them want to push themselves a little more."

Gonzalez will begin her senior 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.

Gonzalez joins recent Gatorade Maryland Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Mobolaji Adeokun (2011-12, DuVal High School), Olivia Ekpona (2010-11 & 2009-10, Northwest High School), Lorraine Graham (2008-09, Charles Herbert Flowers), Olivia Ekpona (2007-08, Wootton), and Tasha Stanley (2006-2007, Eleanor Roosevelt) 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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