

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**OLENTANGY ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE OHIO 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 Katelyn Daniels of Olentangy Orange High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Daniels is the first Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Olentangy Orange 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 Daniels as Ohio'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, Daniels 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-10 senior won the Division 1 state championships in the shot put and the discus this spring, hurling the shot put 51 feet, 2 inches and throwing the discus 161-7. Daniels' state championship effort in the shot put ranked as the nation's No. 6 performance among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection.

Daniels has maintained a 4.22 GPA in the classroom. Also a talented musician and a competitive dancer and gymnast, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and an elementary school literacy-outreach program.

"Katelyn works hard every day of the year," said Ingrid Simpson, Olentangy Orange head coach. "She really performs in those big meets; she loves that pressure. She's just a phenomenal athlete and a fantastic young lady."

Daniels has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at Michigan State 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.

Daniels joins recent Gatorade Ohio Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Alyssa McBride (2011-12, Bryan High School), Kaila Barber (2010-11 & 2009-10, Midpark High School), Stephanie Morgan (2008-09 & 2007-08 Barnesville), and Emily Pendleton (2006-2007, Woodmore) 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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