

Contact: Adam Woullard (312-729-3627)

**T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE SOUTH DAKOTA 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 Cortney Dowling of T.F. Riggs High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Dowling is the first Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from T.F. Riggs 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 Dowling as South Dakota'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, Dowling 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-4 freshman sprinter won three individual state championships this spring and led the Lady Governors to fifth place as a team at the Class AA state meet. Dowling won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.39 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 25.56 and anchored the 4x400-meter relay quartet that broke the tape in 4:01.15. A 2013 First Team All-State selection, she was the only competitor to win three individual titles at the state meet.

Dowling has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. An accomplished pianist, she has participated in multiple service-mission trips with her church community and has volunteered locally as a youth track and field coach.

"Cortney Dowling has a special burst of speed that you rarely see," said Jim Jarovski, head coach at Sioux Falls Lincoln High. "She is exceptionally fast and an outstanding competitor. I was very impressed with her athletically and after talking to other coaches, I've heard she is a great kid also."

Dowling will begin her sophomore 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.

Dowling joins recent Gatorade South Dakota Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Kari Heck (2011-12 & 2010-11, Washington High School), Jasmyne King (2009-10, 2008-09, & 2007-08, Rapid City Central), and Leslie Brost (2006-2007, Watertown) 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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