

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

**ST. MARYS HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE WEST VIRGINIA 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 Maggie Drazba of St. Marys High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Drazba is the first Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from St. Marys 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 Drazba as West Virginia'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, Drazba 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.).

A two-time Gatorade State Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, the 5-foot-1 senior won three individual state championships at the Class A state meet this spring and led the Blue Devils to a fifth-place finish as a team. Drazba won the 800 in 2:21.42, the 1600 in 5:03.53 and the 3200 in 10:31.83. Her top time in the 3000-meter run of 10:31.83 at the Penn Relays ranked No. 7 in the nation among prep competitors in 2013 at the time of her selection. She also ranked in the top 100 nationally in the 1600 and 3200 this spring.

Drazba has maintained a weighted 4.17 GPA in the classroom and graduated as her school's valedictorian. The president of the St. Marys High National Honor Society and the treasurer of her school's student body, she has volunteered locally as a mentor at the Pleasants County Boys and Girls Club and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

"What makes Maggie so good is her discipline," said Jonathan Wright, Drazba's coach with the WV Flyers. "She's one of those girls that never really breaks down. She does anything you ask of her. No amount of mileage is too high, no speed is too high—she just goes out and does what she needs to do."

Drazba has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on an athletic scholarship at West Virginia 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.

Drazba joins recent Gatorade West Virginia Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Emily Godwin (2011-12 & 2010-11, Buckhannon-Upshur High School), Bria Welker (2009-10, Frankfort), Taylor Brown (2008-09, Jefferson), Meghan Mock (2007-08, Berkeley Springs), and Kaylyn Christopher (2006-2007, Preston) 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).

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