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**DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MARYLAND FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (December 5, 2013) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Taiwan Deal of DeMatha Catholic High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year. Deal is the second Gatorade Maryland Football Player of the Year to be chosen from DeMatha Catholic 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 field, distinguishes Deal as Maryland's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Deal joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Wes Welker (1999-00, Heritage Hall HS, Okla.), Terrell Suggs (1999-00, Hamilton HS, Ariz.), Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 6-foot-1, 225-pound senior running back led the Stags to an 11-1 record and the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship this past season. Deal rushed for 1,102 yards and 14 touchdowns on 147 carries. He is a First Team All-WCAC selection and has been chosen to play in the Offense-Defense All-American Bowl.

Deal has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of the Shepherd's Cove homeless shelter and youth sports programs.

"Deal is a tough guy to stop," said Aaron Brady, head coach at Gonzaga College High. "He runs hard and he runs downhill and it takes two or three guys to tackle him on every play."

Deal has verbally committed to play football on an athletic scholarship at the University of Wisconsin beginning in the fall of 2014.

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.

Deal joins recent Gatorade Maryland Football Players of the Year Kendall Fuller (2012-2013, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Cyrus Jones (2011-12, Gilman School), Darius Jennings (2010-11, Gilman School), Zach Zwinak (2009-10, Linganore) and Jelani Jenkins (2008-09 & 2007-08, Our Lady of Good Counsel) 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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