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**PADUA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE DELAWARE GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 19, 2014) — 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 Maiya Dendy of Padua Academy as its 2013-14 Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Dendy is the third Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Padua Academy.

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 Dendy as Delaware'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, Dendy 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-7 junior won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.07 seconds and the 200 in 24.41 at the Meet of Champions this past season. The state's returning Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, Dendy also ran the lead leg of the winning 4x400-meter relay quartet that broke the tape in 3:55.89. At the Division I championships, she led the Pandas to the team title, winning the 100 in 11.81 and running the opening leg of the first-place 4x400 relay that crossed the line in 4:02.65. She also took second in the 200 (24.60) and 400 (58.08) at the divisional state meet. The state record-holder in all three sprinting events, her fastest 100 and 400 times this spring both ranked among the nation's top 67 performance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Dendy has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to volunteering locally on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives, she has donated her time as manager of her school's cross country team.

"Maiya is a fun and easygoing teammate, yet always remains determined and focused," said Padua head coach Marnie Giunta. "When it's time for competition, she is calm, cool and mature in how she handles herself in the pressure situations."

Dendy 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.

Two-time winner Dendy joins Gatorade Delaware Girls Track & Field Athletes of the Year Haley Pierce (2011-12 & 2010 - 11, The Tatnall School), Celina Emerson (2009-10, Delcastle Technical), Juliet Bottorff (2008-09, The Tatnall School), Brianna Kennedy (2007-08, Caravel Academy), and Nikko Brady (2006-2007, Charter School of Wilmington) 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.