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**WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® ALASKA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 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 Pauline Tufi of West Anchorage High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year. Tufi is the first Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from West Anchorage 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 Tufi as Alaska's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Tufi joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, 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.), Angela Tincher (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-10 senior right-handed pitcher, shortstop and catcher and infielder posted a 9-5 record along with a 1.61 ERA, 140 strikeouts and a 0.79 WHIP in 87 innings this past season, leading the Eagles (16-8) to the Large School semifinals. The two-time returning Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year, Tufi also batted .842 with 6 home runs, 36 RBI and a 1.474 slugging percentage.

Tufi has maintained a 3.97 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Salvation Army, a food bank and the Nunaka Valley Little League.

"Pauline Tufi is one of my favorite players I have seen in Alaska," said Andy Fowkes, head coach at South Anchorage High. "She is just a great kid who works extremely hard and gets the job done with no showing off."

Tufi has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Louisiana Tech 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.

Tufi joins Gatorade Alaska Softball Players of the Year Brittany Fenumiai (2009-10 & 2008-09, Juneau-Douglas), Carrie Ann Laliberte (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas), and Joanna Schultz (2006 - 07, Chugiak) 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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