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**MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ARIZONA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 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 Valerie Kaff of Mountain View High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Arizona Softball Player of the Year. Kaff is the first Gatorade Arizona Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Mountain View 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 Kaff as Arizona's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Kaff 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-7 senior right-handed pitcher posted a 27-7 record in the circle along with a 0.84 ERA this past season, leading the Toros (27-8) to the Division I state tournament loser's bracket final. Kaff struck out 431 batters and walked just 65 in 216.2 innings pitched to go with 16 shutouts and two no-hitters. At the plate, Kaff batted .310 with two home runs, 18 RBI and a .406 on-base percentage.

Kaff has maintained a 3.65 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank in addition to donating her time to the Salvation Army and as a youth coach and umpire.

"Mountain View was literally Val Kaff," said Stefanie Ewing, head coach of Chaparral High. "The only chance they had to win games was if she was on. Talk about rising up every single game and not letting the pressure break you. I was extremely impressed by Val."

Kaff has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at Michigan State 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.

Kaff joins recent Gatorade Arizona Softball Players of the Year Kayla Bonstrom (2011-12, Canyon del Oro), Mattie Fowler (2010-11, Canyon del Oro), Dallas Escobedo (2009-10, St. Mary's Catholic), and Kenzie Fowler (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006 - 07, Canyon del Oro) 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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