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HUNTINGTON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Erin Rethlake of Huntington North High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year. Rethlake is the second Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Huntington North 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 Rethlake as Indiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Rethlake 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-9 junior left-handed pitcher led the Vikings (26-3) to the Semi-State finals this past season. Rethlake posted a 23-1 record and a 0.18 ERA in the circle, compiling 317 strikeouts and just 23 walks in 154 innings pitched. She added a .486 batting average with 14 home runs and 36 RBI. Rethlake is a First Team All-State selection.

Rethlake has maintained a 3.75 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of youth softball programs.

"Rethlake is a tremendous competitor," said Jeff Theobald, head coach at New Castle High. "She has great control and command of her pitches, and as good a pitcher as she is, I think she's equally as good at the plate."

Rethlake 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.

Rethlake joins recent Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Brooke Boetjer (2011-12, South Putnam High School), Kelsi Jones (2010-11, Carmel High School), Morgan Lewis (2009-10, Lutheran), Mel Dumezich (2008-09, Whiting), Katie Hackney (2007-08, Huntington North), and Emily Wethington (2006 - 07, Scecina Memorial) 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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