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**DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IOWA 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 Paige Lowary of Dallas Center-Grimes High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year. Lowary is the first Gatorade Iowa Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Dallas Center-Grimes 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 Lowary as Iowa's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Lowary 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 left-handed pitcher and first baseman posted a 31-4 record with a 0.39 ERA, 353 strikeouts and a 0.61 WHIP in 233.1 innings as a sophomore last season, leading the Mustangs (35-6) to the 2012 Class 4A state final. The 2012 Class 4A Pitcher of the Year, Lowary, now a junior, also batted .364 with 4 home runs, 28 RBI and 24 runs scored.

Lowary has maintained a 3.98 GPA in the classroom. An active parishioner in her church community, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Dallas County CROP Hunger Walk and as a youth softball coach.

"Paige Lowary is a talented pitcher and player and I have watched her lead her team to many victories," said Stacy Evans, head coach at Indianola High. "She commands respect when she's in the circle or at the plate."

Lowary has made a verbal commitment to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Missouri 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.

Lowary joins recent Gatorade Iowa Softball Players of the Year Riley Fisher (2011-12, East High School), Jady Spencer (2010-11, West High School), Jamie Fisher (2009-10, BCLUW) and Sammy Snygg (2008-09, 2007-08 & 2006 - 07, North Polk) 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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