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**OLATHE EAST HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Allison Stewart of Olathe East High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kansas Softball Player of the Year. Stewart is the fourth Gatorade Kansas Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olathe East 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 Stewart as Kansas's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Stewart 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 returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 junior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Hawks (24-1) to a second straight Class 6A state championship this past season. Stewart batted .487 with two home runs, 42 RBI and a .713 slugging percentage. In the circle, the Sunflower League Player of the Year posted a 13-1 record with a 0.39 ERA and 164 strikeouts against just two walks in 90.1 innings pitched. She struck out 17 batters and had a walk-off single in Olathe East's 2-1, nine-inning win over Derby High in the state semifinals.

Stewart has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Olathe East 21st Century Leadership Program, she has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank in addition to donating her time as a youth mentor and softball coach.

"Allison Stewart works very hard at all aspects of her game," said Mark Mahoney, head coach of Olathe Northwest High. "She is a great player and leader. She gets better every time I see her."

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

Stewart joins Gatorade Kansas Softball Players of the Year Shelby Davis (2010-11, Goddard High School), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City), Nikki Armagost (2008-09, Andover Central), Paige Ladenburger (2007-08, Washburn Rural), and Eranne Daugharthy (2006 - 07, Olathe East) 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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