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**BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KENTUCKY 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 Jessica Adell of Ballard High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year. Adell is the third Gatorade Kentucky Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ballard 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 Adell as Kentucky's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Adell 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-6 junior right-handed pitcher and outfielder batted .461 with six doubles, 32 runs scored and 33 steals this past season, leading the Bruins (29-11) to the 7th Region semifinals. In the circle, the 2012 First Team All-State selection posted a 20-9 record with a 1.10 ERA and 210 strikeouts in 197.2 innings pitched along with eight shutouts.

Adell has maintained a 3.09 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as part of a fundraising campaign to benefit cancer research and as a youth softball coach.

"Jessica Adell can do it all," said Ricky Hoffman, head coach of Bullitt East High. "She's the best outfielder in the state, she pitches even though that is not her best position, and she can hit. She is one of the hardest outs in the state."

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

Adell joins recent Gatorade Kentucky Softball Players of the Year Allison Foster (2011-12, Christian Academy of Louisville), Griffin Joiner (2010-11, Christian County High School), Emily Gaines (2009-10, South Laurel), Megan Taylor (2008-09, North Laurel), Kirsten Allen (2007-08 & 2006 - 07, Ryle) 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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