

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**SAM HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® LOUISIANA 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 Baylee Corbello of Sam Houston High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year. Corbello is the first Gatorade Louisiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Sam Houston 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 Corbello as Louisiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Corbello 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-5 senior right-handed pitcher led the Broncos (21-9) to a second straight Class 5A state championship this past season. A stress fracture in her rib prevented Corbello from pitching until late in the season as she posted a 7-0 record in the circle with a 0.32 ERA and 122 strikeouts in 65 innings pitched. Corbello pitched back-to-back no-hitters to open the playoffs and struck out 16 batters in an 8-0 win over Mount Carmel High in the state final. At the plate, the two-time Louisiana Sports Writers Association's Miss Softball winner batted .439 with seven home runs, 36 RBI and a .816 slugging percentage.

Corbello has maintained an A average in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community, she has volunteered locally at a women's shelter, as a youth softball coach and has donated her time with Buddy Ball, which organizes T-ball games for physically challenged children.

"Baylee was hurt for a big part of this season and still came in at the end of the season and dominated," said Sarah Portie, head coach of Barbe High. "Not only can she pitch, she can hit, too. She is a game-changing player."

Corbello has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at LSU 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.

Corbello joins Gatorade Louisiana Softball Players of the Year Sara Corbello (2010-11, Barbe High School), Meghan Patterson (2009-10 & 2008-09, Mount Carmel Academy), Kelee Grimes (2007-08, Pineville), and Ashley Brignac (2006 - 07, John Curtis Christian) 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.

###