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**CONY HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® MAINE 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 Sonja Morse of Cony High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year. Morse is the first Gatorade Maine Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cony 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 Morse as Maine's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Morse 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 senior right-handed pitcher, shortstop and first baseman led the Rams to a 15-1 record and a berth in the Class A state quarterfinals, scheduled for June 5. At the time of her selection, Morse owned an 11-0 record with a 0.58 ERA and 130 strikeouts in 63.1 innings pitched through 16 games. A 2012 First Team All-State and two-time First Team All-Conference honoree, she also batted .549 with six home runs, 26 RBI and a 1.098 slugging percentage through 16 games.

Morse has maintained a 90.1 average in the classroom. A member of the National Honor Society, she earned highest marks at the Capital Area Technical Center's law enforcement class and has volunteered locally as a youth softball coach.

"Sonja Morse is an exceptional pitcher with the ability to control the game," said Cindy Goddard, head coach at Oxford Hills High. "She is by far the best pitcher in our league and she can also hit and field as well as anyone I have seen."

Morse has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell 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.

Morse joins recent Gatorade Maine Softball Players of the Year Julia Geaumont (2011-12, Thornton Academy), Alexis Bogdanovich (2010-11, South Portland High School), Sam Bedore (2009-10, Bangor), Hannah Hill (2008-09, Fryeburg Academy), Hannah Hill (2007-08, Fryeburg Academy), and Kelsey Griffin (2006 - 07, Scarborough) 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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