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**MILLARD SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEBRASKA 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 Madi Unzicker of Millard South High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year. Unzicker is the second Gatorade Nebraska Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Millard South 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 Unzicker as Nebraska's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Unzicker 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-9 junior catcher led the Patriots (29-5) to the Class A state championship this past season. Unzicker hit .536 with 12 home runs, 42 RBI and 50 runs scored. Captain of the Omaha World-Herald All-Nebraska Team, she was also a member of the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State Team. Unzicker matched the Class A record for career home runs with 25.

Unzicker has maintained a 3.92 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a homeless shelter, the American Red Cross and youth softball programs.

"There are no weaknesses in her swing, and she is a great power hitter," said Mark Watt, head coach at Lincoln Southwest High. "Defensively, she's very, very good, and her arm is strong enough that you just don't want to try to steal against her."

Unzicker will begin her senior year of high school 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.

Unzicker joins recent Gatorade Nebraska Softball Players of the Year Alicia Armstrong (2011-12, Beatrice High School), Allie Mathewson (2010-11, Papillion-La Vista South High School), Becca Changstrom (2009-10 & 2008-09, Lincoln Southwest), Ashley Hagemann (2007-08 & 2006 - 07, Elkhorn) 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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