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**CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW HAMPSHIRE 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 Katelyn Kennard of Concord High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year. Kennard is the third Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Concord 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 Kennard as New Hampshire's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Kennard 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-7 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman led the Crimson Tide to an 18-2 record and the Division I semifinals, scheduled for June 5. Kennard owned an 11-1 record with a 1.68 ERA and 45 strikeouts in 62.2 innings pitched through 20 games. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she also batted .500 with a home run, 26 RBI and a .650 slugging percentage.

Kennard has maintained a 90.4 average in the classroom. She has served as chairman of her school's winter carnival and has volunteered locally on behalf of a preschool and as a youth softball coach.

"Katelyn Kennard is a heck of a ballplayer," said Steve Kraytenberg, head coach of the New England Diamond Gems U18 AAU team. "She has always played up a level and has been able to hold her own even when she was competing against kids much older than her. She hits right in the middle of Concord's lineup and is a huge part of that team."

Kennard will attend Plymouth State University this fall, where she will play softball.

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.

Kennard joins recent Gatorade New Hampshire Softball Players of the Year Taylor Carbone (2011-12 & 2010-11, Alvirne High School), Kelsey Martel (2009-10, Concord), Paige Hansen (2008-09, Concord) and Amanda Barton (2007-08 & 2006 - 07, Franklin) 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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