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**CICERO-NORTH SYRACUSE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® NEW YORK 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 Sydney O'Hara of Cicero-North Syracuse High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year. O'Hara is the first Gatorade New York Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Cicero-North Syracuse 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 O'Hara as New York's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, O'Hara 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 led the Northstars to a 22-1 record entering the Class AA state quarterfinals against Guilderland, scheduled for June 4. O'Hara owned a 16-0 record with a 0.20 ERA entering the state tournament, striking out 246 batters with just 16 walks in 107.2 innings pitched. She was also hitting .516 with six home runs and 35 RBI. O'Hara is a two-time Central New York Player of the Year and First Team All-State selection.

O'Hara has maintained a B-plus average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth softball camps.

"O'Hara is virtually unhittable," said Nick Spataro, head coach at Liverpool High. "She throws with a lot of speed and she has a screwball, curveball and rise ball. She's hitting all her spots this year and not walking anybody. She's a great hitter too, very patient, with a lot of power."

O'Hara has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Syracuse University 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.

O'Hara joins recent Gatorade New York Softball Players of the Year Kristen Brown (2011-12, MacArthur High School), Marissa Diescher (2010-11, Livingston Manor High School), Tammy Wray (2009-10, Somers), Olivia Galati (2008-09, St. John the Baptist), Cassie Reilly-Boccia (2007-08, Yorktown), and Chelsea Plimpton (2006 - 07, Williamsville South) 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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