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**NORTH MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® OREGON SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 6, 2013) — In its 28<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Maryssa Becker of North Medford High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year. Becker is the first Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from North Medford 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 Becker as Oregon's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Becker 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 6-foot senior right-handed pitcher led the Black Tornado (29-2) to a second straight Class 6A state championship this past season. Becker posted a 19-1 record with one save, a 0.47 ERA and 232 strikeouts in 132.2 innings pitched. She allowed 47 hits and 22 walks and tossed five no-hitters, including one in the state final, a 2-1 eight-inning victory over Glencoe High. A three-time Southern Oregon Hybrid League Pitcher of the Year and the 2012 Oregon Sports Award Prep Softball Player of the Year, she batted .545 with eight home runs, 48 RBI and a .939 slugging percentage in 2013.

Becker has maintained a 3.93 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as an elementary school mentor, a youth softball instructor and as part of multiple community service initiatives in association with North Medford High's Torch Honor Society.

"Maryssa is the consummate team player," said North Medford head coach Mike Mayben. "She makes the players around her better through her leadership and work ethic. She is a special talent on the field."

Becker has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on an athletic scholarship at the University of Louisville 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.

Becker joins recent Gatorade Oregon Softball Players of the Year Maryssa Becker (2011-12, North Medford High School), Alyssa Gillespie (2010-11, Glencoe High School), Kaitlin Inglesby (2009-10, Central Catholic), Anna Bertrand (2008-09, McMinnville), Paige Hall (2007-08, Jesuit), and Mikayla Endicott (2006 - 07, Roseburg) 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](http://www.gatorade.com/poy).

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