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**SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® TENNESSEE 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 Makenzie Prince of Smyrna High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year. Prince is the first Gatorade Tennessee Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Smyrna 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 Prince as Tennessee's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Prince 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-3 junior right-handed pitcher led the Bulldogs to a 40-10 record and the Class AAA state championship this past season. Prince posted a 37-6 record with a 0.83 ERA and 370 strikeouts in 252 innings-pitched. The Pitcher of the Year as named by the Daily News Journal, she also batted .401 with five home runs and 31 RBI. Prince scored 34 runs in addition to producing a 1.060 OPS. In the Class AAA state tournament, she finished 4-0 with a 0.45 ERA and 38 strikeouts in 31 innings-pitched.

Prince has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. A member of the DECA, the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society, the National Beta Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Rotary International's Interact club, she has volunteered locally as a peer tutor, on behalf of her church and as part of a holiday gift-giving campaign. Prince has also donated her time as a youth softball instructor.

"When you think of an athlete you want to represent you, Makenzie Prince is the epitome," said Tory Atwood, head coach of rival Blackman High. "She is an amazing pitcher that has a ridiculous work ethic. She has to be told multiple times to stop pitching, because she will not stop until every pitch is perfect. She moves the ball well and has the speed to blow it past hitters as well. Makenzie also gets the job done at the plate. She hits consistently, and when the game is on the line she comes through."

Prince 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.

Prince joins recent Gatorade Tennessee Softball Players of the Year Kelsey Nunley (2011-12, Soddy-Daisy High School), Lacye Walker (2010-11, Grace Baptist Academy), Ellen Renfroe (2009-10, Trinity Christian Academy), Kelsey Cartwright (2008-09, Goodpasture Christian School), Holly Thomas (2007-08, Ooltewah), and Baillie Lott (2006 - 07, Brentwood) 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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