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**EAST ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® ALASKA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2014) — In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Taria Page of East Anchorage High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year. Page is the first Gatorade Alaska Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from East Anchorage 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 Page as Alaska's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Page 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 6-foot junior shortstop led the Thunderbirds to a 24-0 record and a berth in the Large School state tournament, scheduled to begin June 6. Page batted .741 with 13 home runs, 48 runs scored, 44 RBI and a 2.086 slugging percentage through 24 games. A two-time First Team All-State selection, she has helped East Anchorage win 57 consecutive games and a pair of state championships dating back to 2012.

Page has maintained a B average in the classroom. A devoted parishioner in her church community, she has participated locally on behalf of multiple car wash fundraisers and as a youth softball coach.

"Taria Page is the strongest and most natural player I have ever coached," said East Anchorage High head coach Paul Schoenborn. "For her size she is so agile and she makes plays at shortstop that are just amazing. You have to see her play every day to understand her abilities. She makes incredible plays look easy."

Page 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.

Page joins recent Gatorade Alaska Softball Players of the Year Pauline Tufi (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, West Anchorage High School), Brittany Fenumiai (2009-10 & 2008-09, Juneau-Douglas), Carrie Ann Laliberte (2007-08, Juneau-Douglas), and Joanna Schultz (2006-07, Chugiak) 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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