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**PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® COLORADO 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 Ally Power of Ponderosa High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year. Power is the first Gatorade Colorado Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Ponderosa 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 Power as Colorado's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Power 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-4 junior right-handed pitcher led the Mustangs (19-5) to third place in the Class 4A state tournament this past season. Power compiled a 17-5 record with a 0.78 ERA in the circle, along with a .442 batting average, four home runs and 19 RBI at the plate. The Continental League and South Metro Player of the Year, she struck out 277 batters while issuing just 29 walks in 152 innings pitched.

Power has maintained a 3.67 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's student council, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and Sports Made Possible, which organizes baseball games for physically challenged children.

"Power does everything well," said Brian Stebbins, head coach at Douglas County High. "She throws with power, hits her spots, changes speeds, and she's completely unflappable in the circle. She can hit the ball too."

Power 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.

Power joins recent Gatorade Colorado Softball Players of the Year Nickie Blue (2012-13, Niwot High School), Rainey Gaffin (2011-12 & 2010-11, Legacy High School), Shelby Babcock (2009-10 & 2008-09, Legacy), and Mallory Duran (2007-08 & 2006-07, Windsor) 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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