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**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® FLORIDA SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 5, 2014) — In its 29<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 Meghan King of St. Thomas Aquinas High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year. King is the third Gatorade Florida Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from St. Thomas Aquinas 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 King as Florida's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, King 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-10 senior left-handed pitcher posted a 20-2 record in the circle along with a 0.25 ERA this past season, leading the Raiders (30-2) to a second-straight Class 7A state championship. King struck out 226 batters and walked 19 in 142.2 innings pitched. The 2014 Class 7A State Player of the Year recorded 15 shutouts and three no-hitters, including one perfect game, and held opponents to a .111 batting average. She fired a one-hitter with 12 strikeouts in a 1-0 win over Harmony High in the Class 7A state title game.

King has maintained a weighted 3.99 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally as a leader at Vacation Bible Camp, as a youth softball coach and as part of multiple community-service initiatives with her church youth group.

"Meghan King is the main reason St. Thomas Aquinas beat Harmony and won the state championship," said Mark Schusterman, head coach of Gulliver Prep. "The important thing to remember is that St. Thomas played the toughest competition around and Meghan kept them in every game."

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

King joins recent Gatorade Florida Softball Players of the Year Sydney Wright (2012-13, Bishop Snyder High School), Bianka Bell (2011-12, Chamberlain High School), Sami Fagan (2010-11, Dunnellon High School), Kasey Fagan (2009-10 & 2008-09, Dunnellon High School), Jaclyn Traina (2007-08, Naples), and Kelsi Dunne (2006-07, Spruce Creek) 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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