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Contact: Matt Schiffman (312-729-3672)

**LAKE CITY HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® IDAHO 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 Vanessa Shippy of Lake City High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year. Shippy is the second Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Lake City 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 Shippy as Idaho's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Shippy 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-9 senior second baseman and catcher batted .622 with 34 extra-base hits, 31 stolen bases, 40 RBI and 58 runs scored this past season, leading the Timberwolves (20-8) to the double-elimination Class 5A state tournament. The 2013 National Fastpitch Coaches Association High School Golden Shoe Award winner, Shippy owns school single-season records for hits (71), stolen bases (56) and doubles (27). As a teammate of three-time Gatorade Idaho Softball Player of the Year Casey Stangel, a freshman starter at the University of Missouri this spring, Shippy helped lead Lake City to the 2011 and 2013 Class 5A state championships as a freshman and junior.

Shippy has maintained a 4.16 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating her time as a peer tutor and youth softball instructor, she has volunteered on behalf of her church's youth group and Real Life Ministries. Also a member of the National Honor Society, Shippy has served as a member of Lake City's student council, the school's student-leadership program and as the Coeur d'Alene School District's student representative.

"Vanessa Shippy is the real deal," said Larry Bieber, head coach of rival Couer d'Alene. "Every time she got up, we had to change the way we did things. She changes the game. We had to make sure we didn't give her anything she could put in play. If you put it on the outside edge, she'd slap it to the opposite field for a base hit. If you put on the inside edge, she'd pull it for a home run."

Shippy has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Oklahoma State University 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.

Shippy joins recent Gatorade Idaho Softball Players of the Year Casey Stangel (2012-13, 2011-12 & 2010-11, Lake City High School), Nickayla Skinner (2009-10 & 2008-09, Mountain Home), Joni Cook (2007-08, Eagle), and Britney Croner (2006-07, Bishop Kelly) 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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