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**CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® INDIANA 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 Miranda Elish of Crown Point High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year. Elish is the first Gatorade Indiana Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Crown Point 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 Elish as Indiana's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Elish 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 sophomore right-handed pitcher had led the Bulldogs to a 28-0 record entering the June 3 regional championship game against Munster. Elish posted a 23-0 record and a 0.22 ERA in the circle through 28 games, amassing 223 strikeouts against just 17 walks in 126 innings pitched. A First Team All-State selection, she added a .480 batting average with four home runs and 26 RBI.

Elish has maintained a 3.64 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor in her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Best Buddies program, which matches students with developmentally disabled individuals.

"Elish is the top pitcher we've seen," said Brooke Baker-Runyon, head coach at Andrean High. "She throws hard and she's very smart on the mound. She has a lot of pitches, she gets ahead in the count and she hits her spots."

Elish will begin her junior 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.

Elish joins recent Gatorade Indiana Softball Players of the Year Erin Rethlake (2012-13, Huntington North High School), Brooke Boetjer (2011-12, South Putnam High School), Kelsi Jones (2010-11, Carmel High School), Morgan Lewis (2009-10, Lutheran), Mel Dumezich (2008-09, Whiting), Katie Hackney (2007-08, Huntington North), and Emily Wethington (2006-07, Seccina Memorial) 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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