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**OLATHE EAST HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED  
GATORADE® KANSAS 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 Allison Stewart of Olathe East High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade Kansas Softball Player of the Year. Stewart is the fourth Gatorade Kansas Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Olathe East 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 Stewart as Kansas's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Stewart 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.).

A two-time returning Gatorade State Player of the Year, the 5-foot-11 senior right-handed pitcher and first baseman posted a 17-1 record in the circle along with a 0.82 ERA, leading the Hawks (24-1) to a runner-up finish in the Class 6A state tournament. Stewart struck out 156 batters and walked just 10 in 102.1 innings pitched, also hurling five shutouts, including two perfect games. At the plate, the three-time First Team All-Sunflower League honoree batted .310 with four home runs, 38 RBI and a .536 slugging percentage. She concluded her prep softball career with a state-record 168 RBI.

Stewart has maintained a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Olathe East 21st Century Leadership Program, she has volunteered locally at a homeless shelter and food bank, as a youth mentor and as a youth softball coach.

"Allison Stewart has command of all of her pitches and she can throw them whenever she wants," said Mike Allen, head coach of Olathe South High. "She's brutal. Plus, she can hit. She drives the ball to gaps, hits for power and has a good eye."

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

Three-time winner Stewart joins Gatorade Kansas Softball Players of the Year Shelby Davis (2010-11, Goddard High School), Kelsey Stewart (2009-10, Arkansas City), Nikki Armagost (2008-09, Andover Central), Paige Ladenburger (2007-08, Washburn Rural), and Eranne Daugharthy (2006-07, Olathe East) 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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